



Paramedics in Cape Town rushing to help victims outside the Planet Hollywood restaurant after it was bombed.

FBI Aid Asked in Cape Town Blast

By Donald McNeil
New York Times Service

CAPE TOWN — As a local Muslim group strongly and repeatedly denied that it was responsible for a fatal bomb explosion Tuesday night at a Planet Hollywood restaurant here, the South African government Wednesday invited the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation to join its inquiry into the blast.

One man died and at least 27 were injured in the blast.

A special agent assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria arrived Wednesday morning, and two bomb experts who

had been investigating the larger and more devastating explosions at the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were expected early Thursday.

Also Wednesday, a senior police official said detectives were following "some firm leads" and implied that there might be arrests soon.

The FBI was invited not so much to assist local investigators, the police said, but to see if there are any links between the Planet Hollywood blast and others against American institutions around the world.

"We've had a long history of bombings in this country, so we've developed our bomb squads to quite a high ability," said the police captain, Rod Beer. "But we want to cooperate with the Americans."

Security was increased here not only at U.S. Embassy and consular offices but at other symbols of Americana here, including the country's 45 McDonald's hamburger outlets.

The police made it clear they did not think there are any obvious links to the blast in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Those were powerful car bombs that destroyed whole buildings, and the United States has said a worldwide terrorist network allegedly run by

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Libya Agrees to a Trial in The Hague

Agence France-Presse

TRIPOLI, Libya — Libya on Wednesday accepted a U.S.-British offer to try two Libyan suspects in the Lockerbie bombing in The Hague as long as there are no conditions, according to an official statement.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry announced its acceptance of the development that has taken place in the positions of the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom, which is what Libya has been demanding," the statement by the ministry said.

"Libya also insists on the need to put an end to sanctions imposed due to UN resolutions 748 and 833," the statement added, referring to economic and air travel sanctions in force since 1992.

London and Washington, which previously insisted that the two Libyan suspects for the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103 be extradited to Britain or the United States for trial, decided Monday they could be tried in the Netherlands, under Scottish law.

Tripoli has been under UN sanctions for refusing to hand over the two suspects to London or Washington.

The bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988 killed 270 people on the plane and on the ground.

In agreeing to a trial in a third country, London and Washington have adopted an idea already floated by Libya for three years and supported by numerous other countries.

"The Foreign Affairs Ministry

hopes that the American and British governments are sincere in their desire to definitively solve this problem," the Libyan statement said.

"The whole world can judge the sincerity of the United States and Great Britain," it added of the proposed trial, "according to whether the preparations are accompanied by conditions that would delay its taking place."

The Libyan announcement came as Ussama Baz, an advisor to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, was in Tripoli to discuss the U.S.-British offer with Libya's leader, Moammar Gadhafi.

Mr. Mubarak talked with Colonel Gadhafi by telephone Tuesday about the offer.

A number of Arab countries, including Egypt, have welcomed the proposal, and the head of the Arab League, Emir Abdel Meguid, said Tuesday that he expected Tripoli to accept it.

The UN Security Council pressed ahead Wednesday with plans to pass a draft resolution on the Lockerbie bombing trial, despite a Libyan request for a delay.

"There is no decision to delay anything," the council president, Danilo Turk, said after a closed-door meeting. "We are proceeding with the resolution."

The Libyan chargé d'affaires, Ramadan Bargh, had asked for a delay, saying more time was needed to study the proposal.

The draft resolution submitted by London and Washington pledges to

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China Admits to Flood Mismanagement

Waters Have Killed 3,000 and Swept Away Foundations of River Control

By Erik Eckholm
New York Times Service

BEIJING — As charges mount that poor planning and official neglect worsened the disastrous flooding in China this summer, the government has made the unusual admission that its land-use mistakes are partly to blame and announced sweeping policy changes.

Officials have clearly been shocked by the vast scale of damage in southern and northeastern China, where severe flooding persists. While the rains this year have been torrential, heavier rainfall in some other years has caused less flooding and damage.

In the last few weeks, the official press has carried increasingly sharp articles and editorials on the harmful effects of clear-cutting timber along the

upper reaches of the Yangtze River and the human invasion of vital wetlands along the river's course.

In private, some experts are making more pointed charges that, despite repeated warnings, the upkeep of important dikes along China's flood-prone rivers has been badly neglected.

At a government news conference on the floods Tuesday, Zhao Qizheng, chief of the State Council Information Office, said the government had decided to shut down logging activities in the upper catchments of the Yangtze River. The deforestation has led to more rapid runoff of rain waters and increased silting of rivers and lakes. He said all cleared areas would be replanted.

He also said that large areas of lakes and wetlands in the Yangtze flood plain, which have been drained to make farm-

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land, would be restored to their natural condition.

These areas formerly absorbed huge volumes of water during flood periods.

"We have asked a lot of nature, and now we are returning what we have acquired," Mr. Zhao said.

The official Xinhua press agency said Wednesday that the floods had killed more than 3,000 people across China this year and caused vast economic losses, Reuters reported from Beijing.

Floods have submerged 21 million hectares (52 million acres) of land, Xinhua quoted a deputy prime minister, Wen Jiabao, as having told a committee of the Parliament. He put the cost of damage at 166.6 billion yuan (\$20 billion).]

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Guerrillas Brush Off Afghanistan Bombing, Calling It a Motivation

By Raymond Bonner
and Steve LeVine
New York Times Service

MANSEERA, Pakistan — Guerrillas who have trained at the camps hit by the U.S. missile strike on Afghanistan last week said Wednesday that the attack would not interfere with the training of Muslim revolutionaries there, nor would it harm their morale.

"It will further motivate people,"

said Bakht Zamin, a commander of a guerrilla unit that was trained in Afghanistan and is now fighting not far

Sudan has filed a lawsuit against the U.S. for its missile strike. Page 6.

from here, in Kashmir. "They consider it a matter of pride and a blessing of God to become a martyr."

He said the camps, which consisted of

mud huts and tents, could be rebuilt within a week.

The Clinton administration has said that the Afghanistan camps were part of a "terrorist network" run by Osama bin Laden, the man it accuses of responsibility for the bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania this month.

Mr. Zamin, a 42-year-old lawyer with an easy laugh, rejected the notion that he and his men were terrorists.

"We feel we are freedom fighters," he said, as he sat on the floor in a single-story house in the cornfields here and shared a breakfast of beans, yogurt and nan, a thick bread. A decade ago, Washington would also have considered him a freedom fighter — he was part of the CIA-backed mujahidin force fighting against the Russians in Afghanistan.

Underscoring the fact that the distinction between a freedom fighter and a terrorist depends on one's political plati-

form, two of the three camps struck by the U.S. missiles have been covertly supported in varying degrees by Pakistan's intelligence service, Western diplomats and Pakistani government officials.

To some degree, Afghanistan has lured an amalgam of Muslim revolutionaries, united by a fundamentalist faith, in a way that Cuba attracted a

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Safari in a Sub / Are There Organisms in the Earth's Crust?

Diving Deep for Signs of Life Below the Ocean Floor

By Kathy Sawyer
Washington Post Service

BOARD DEEP SUBMERGENCE VEHICLE ALVIN
Wedged inside a titanium sphere in his stocking feet, the geophysicist H. Paul Johnson strained to peer out a 5-inch porthole into a midnight dreamscape a mile and a half below the surface swells of the eastern Pacific.

Mr. Johnson and Dudley Foster, the pilot of their three-person research submarine, had been at work on the sea floor for almost six hours in badlands of jumbled black rock, deep fissures and hot towering fumaroles where oases of color and life bloomed crazily in the pitch dark.

The explorers had just discovered a previously unknown field of hot springs, populated by long white tube worms tipped with jaunty red plumes, scatterings of pale sea sponges and cucumbers, snow-white drifts of bacterial colonies and predatory spider crabs that seemed to watch the intruders with wizened ancient faces.

But the researchers' quarry lay even deeper. On a safari of sorts, they were hunting the smallest, most elusive game imaginable, in one of the most hostile environments on the planet. They were on an expedition to test a provocative theory: that there is a vast, clandestine horde of microscopic organisms thriving deep below the sea floor in the Earth's crust.

Mounting evidence, including newly discovered fossil signs of rock-eating microbes living almost a mile beneath the ocean bottom, suggests that this zone is a giant incubator of life.

This dive was part of an unprecedented effort to trap cells, molecules, DNA and other telltale evidence swept up in heated fluids that well up from this underworld.

Inside the cramped life-support sphere of the 17-ton Alvin, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Foster and a Washington Post reporter had been lowered that morning from the mother ship, the research vessel Atlantis.

This was one of 15 deep-sea dives conducted during a 19-day cruise funded by the fledgling Life in Extreme Environments project of the National Science Foundation, the first such expedition with this theme as its major focus.

Atlantis would travel 1,125 miles (1,800 kilometers) during the hunt, criss-crossing a stretch of the undersea Juan de Fuca Ridge some 200 miles off the Oregon coast. The volcanically active ridge, where the landmarks have names like Hell, Inferno

and Ashes, is part of the 46,000-mile seam that girdles Earth like stitching on a baseball.

Here, the giant jigsaw plates of the outer shell pull apart and the planet's very heartbeat can be detected in pulses of sulfurous superhot water, flows of molten lava and swarms of seafloor.

The plumbing system of hot-water (hydrothermal) vents that follow the ridge line has been a major focus of research since the first vent field was discovered by an Alvin team (including Mr. Foster) in 1977. They found sooty black water gushing out at temperatures approaching 700 degrees Fahrenheit (370 degrees Centigrade).

Researchers were astonished to discover complex food chains built on ancient, previously unknown forms of heat-loving microorganisms that thrive in the perpetual night of the sea floor amidst the very elements of hell: fiery heat and brimstone (sulfur).

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Kathy Sawyer/The Washington Post

The submersible Alvin returning to its mother ship after diving to the seabed off the Oregon coast to collect samples from vents.

University microbiologist. "We've been talking about this for years, but nobody has ever done it before in this way."

ON SEVERAL dives, Alvin descended with hundreds of pounds of wet cement. The pilot was under pressure to make haste to the bottom, find the selected site in the mud and dump it on target before it set.

The cement was to serve as a seal, or "grout," to keep contaminants from the ocean proper out of the warm fluids welling up from below. Using Alvin's arm, the pilot would set into the cement foundation an instrument designed to filter out signs of subfloor life. These samples would be collected by the researchers hours,

days, or a year later.

Shortly after the team's return to land, a lab would confirm the presence of DNA in some of the samples.

On this dive, the starboard view showed nothing but a dusty-looking, gray-black expanse, like a blank photo negative — the abyss. Then the sub turned to port and a scene of irrational color leaped out of the darkness — mottled oranges, browns, reds, whites, pinks — inches from the ports.

"Tube worms?" Mr. Johnson said. "Jesus, what a spot!"

They had fallen into exactly what they had planned, a field of warm water springs to the south of a major vent field called Endeavour. Humans had explored this particular spot just once before, Mr. Johnson noted.

Mr. Foster quickly had Alvin's port

claw in motion, filling the air with the whine of tiny motors as he "clear cut" a semilevel patch in the tube-worm jungle and moved boulders to even out the rough ground.

Soon he had laid a concrete form and collected some worms for the biologists waiting on the surface. Nearby, he deployed another odd, experimental device: a small thermal "bio-blanket" with wires and a data collector attached.

Mr. Foster and Mr. Johnson worked intently down their list of tasks, using the floodlights sparingly to stretch Alvin's limited battery power. Occasionally, the dive coordinator on the mother ship would signal the sub, and Mr. Foster, his eyes glued to the front port, would reach behind him to key a rapid Morse code "B" for "busy," letting the surface know things were under control.

A LONG THE WAY, Mr. Johnson took a series of measurements intended to reveal regions where the rock below the sea floor was most porous and therefore provided the most habitable real estate for the team's quarry. To accomplish this, he had arranged for a complex gravity meter borrowed from the U.S. Navy's ballistic missile program to be installed inside the sub.

As they moved northward along the wall, the divers passed rock mounds resembling huge heads sporting what appeared to be dreadlocks, or giant powdered wigs.

Each strand was a tube worm up to a yard long. In some places, there appeared to be thousands of the animals, disappearing into the gloom. Just as plants grow toward sunlight, the worms apparently angle their plumes in the direction of the flow of hydrogen sulfide "food," giving each community a common angle of repose.

Reaching the main Endeavour field, the divers flew past a rusty chimney, a tower six stories high, with wing-like flanges, built up by minerals deposited out of a fountain of hot fluids from below.

Nearby, there was a shorter vent — a "black smoker" — that appeared to be puffing soot. (The colors of the vent emissions vary from scintillating clear, to gray, to black, even sometimes glowing like flame, depending on the temperature and pressure.)

By midafternoon, Mr. Johnson had completed his final measurement and Mr. Foster dropped ballast, announcing, "Weights away." Like the Wizard's balloon departing Oz, the sub began to rise slowly toward "home" — the mother ship.

U.S. Indicts Cuban Exile Over Plot to Kill Castro

By Larry Rohter
and Ann Louise Bardach
New York Times Service

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A leading member of the main Cuban exile organization in the United States has been indicted here along with six other men on charges that they conspired to assassinate President Fidel Castro of Cuba last year while he was on a visit to Venezuela.

The indictment said Jose Antonio Llana, one of the 28-member inner circle that runs the organization — the Cuban-American National Foundation — "obtained a 50-caliber rifle" and bought a boat for the conspirators and others who were not named.

Their purpose, the document charged, was "to kill, with malice aforethought, Fidel Castro at a place outside the United States."

According to the seven-count indictment, the would-be assassins traveled to October to Isla Margarita, Venezuela, where Mr. Castro was to attend a meeting of Latin American leaders. Scouting for a location for the assassination attempt, it said, they picked a hilltop overlooking the airport.

That same month, four Cuban exiles were arrested on a cabin cruiser by the U.S. Coast Guard after one of them blurted out that they were on a voyage to kill Mr. Castro.

Federal investigators discovered that Mr. Llana owned the vessel, which had departed from a private dock in Coral Gables, Florida.

The dock was owned by the business partner of another official of the Cuban-American National Foundation.

One of the sniper rifles found on the cabin cruiser was registered to Jose Francisco Hernandez, the foundation's president.

Mr. Hernandez was notified late last year that he was a "target" of the U.S. investigation, a legal term that signified he could face indictment, officials said.

A lawyer for Mr. Hernandez held a news conference last week to say that he expected his client to be indicted. He denounced the prosecution as a politically motivated attack on the exile group.

The foundation has tax-exempt status and has maintained since its 1981 founding that it espouses peaceful means to bring political change in Cuba.

Mr. Hernandez was not indicted Tuesday. But a Justice Department official said that he was "not a minor player" in the affair and added that he was still under investigation, along with others whom the official did not identify.

Last week, lawyers for the foundation leaders predicted that their clients would be indicted on the relatively minor offense of infringing the Neutrality Act, whose ambiguous language makes obtaining a conviction difficult.

But the charges announced Tuesday were far more serious. They are based on a federal statute applying to the murder of an "internationally protected person," such as a head of state, and carries a maximum penalty of life in prison.

Mr. Llana and Mr. Hernandez did not respond to requests for comment.

The Cuban-American National Foundation headquarters in Miami issued a statement saying its policy was "that violence is not the answer to the Cuban crisis."

Mossad Borrowed Movie Plot, Paper Reports

Reuters
JERUSALEM — Inspired by the American film "The Manchurian Candidate," the Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency, tried to brainwash a Palestinian 30 years ago to assassinate Yasser Arafat, an Israeli newspaper reported Wednesday.

The newspaper Ha'aretz said that the Palestinian was sent to an Arab country to shoot the Palestine Liberation Organization leader between the eyes. Ha'aretz said that the man immediately turned himself in and said the "crazy Israelis" had sent him.

But Ha'aretz said, the Mossad case officers involved had always doubted their ability to brainwash. Anticipating a double cross, they had equipped the Palestinian with a

booby-trapped radio. A technical fault prevented the radio from exploding and killing Mr. Arafat, Ha'aretz said.

The plot was the brainchild in 1968 of the Israeli Navy's chief psychologist, Major Benjamin Shalit. He died 10 years ago, the newspaper said.

Ha'aretz said the plan was inspired by the 1962 film in which an American POW in Korea is brainwashed by a Soviet psychologist and sent home with a buried hypnotic suggestion that, when activated, turns him into a killer.

Mossad controllers spent months indoctrinating a 28-year-old Palestinian, jailed on suspicion of membership in Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction of the PLO, with the proposition that "Fatah is good but Arafat is bad for the Palestinians and should be eliminated," the newspaper said.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Northwest Cancels Many Flights

EAGAN, Minnesota (AP) — Northwest Airlines canceled several hundred flights Wednesday even as talks to avert a strike by pilots continued less than three days before the deadline.

"All we're saying is we're hopeful to reach a resolution and we're still talking," said Jim Faulkner, an airline spokesman. An Air Line Pilots Association spokesman echoed his comments, saying negotiations "are continuing and there has been no agreement."

The pilots union set a strike deadline of 0700 GMT Saturday.

President Bill Clinton has the power to halt a strike for 60 days if it would deprive any section of the country of essential transportation service.

Canada Pilots Cleared to Strike

TORONTO (Reuters) — Air Canada pilots are in a legal position to walk off the job Sept. 1 after the Canadian minister of labor released negotiators from conciliation talks aimed at reaching a contract settlement.

DEATH NOTICE

RICHARD (RICK) ROBARACK
died on Aug. 23 aged 65 at Woodland Hills, California after a long struggle with cancer. A former sports editor & columnist for the International Herald Tribune between 1957 & 1972 & later writer for the Los Angeles Times, he is survived by his wife, Shirley, daughter, Karen, son, Richard, a newspaper service is to be held Sept. 27 at Forest Lawn, Glendale.

But a last-minute mediation effort, tentatively scheduled to start Thursday, could avert a strike at the largest Canadian airline, which flies to destinations in more than 110 countries.

"We have al-

ways stated we would prefer a negotiated solution," said Captain Jean-Marc Belanger, chairman of the executive council of the pilots association, who added, "We do not want a strike."

Polluted beaches and towns are overshadowing Morocco's image as a key North African tourist destination. The 3,000 kilometers (1,860 miles) of coastline and many historical sites and monuments attract about 2 million tourists a year to the country. But several beaches were too "unclean" for bathing, 21 percent were polluted and 50 percent were of "mediocre quality," according to a recent government report.

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For other countries, please contact your nearest IHT office.

Egypt Denies Abu Nidal Arrest

Reuters

security authorities denied earlier news articles last week.

Abu Nidal, who is widely reported to be dying of leukemia, heads the Fanar Revolutionary Council.

The Palestinian ambassador to Egypt, Mohammed Suleib, said he had no involvement with the Abu Nidal case. "It is

a matter for the Egyptians," he said.

Correction

A photo with the Page Two article on St. Hildegard von Bingen in Wednesday's editions should have been credited to David Crossland.

WEATHER

Forecast for Friday through Sunday, as provided by AccuWeather.

THE AMERICAS

Top House Democrat Talks of Impeachment

Gephardt Repeats His Criticism of Clinton As Party Members Say Scandal Is Not Over

By Ceci Connolly
Washington Post Service

SCRANTON, Pennsylvania — Representative Richard Gephardt of Missouri, the leader of President Bill Clinton's party in the House, said on Tuesday that impeachment of Mr. Clinton could not be ruled out if the facts warranted it.

Mr. Gephardt repeated his criticism of Mr. Clinton for his behavior with the young intern Monica Lewinsky.

Impeaching the president would in effect override the election of 1996, the leader of the House Democrats said, but "that doesn't mean it can't be done. You just better be sure you do it the right way."

Mr. Gephardt said that if Mr. Clinton were to leave office, "we'll get through this."

In a series of campaign appearances and press interviews, Mr. Gephardt sent a not-too-subtle signal to the White House that he could not be counted on to back the president blindly.

"If Congress decides to go forward with an impeachment process, we will be involved in perhaps the most important task the Congress will ever have," he said during a stop here. "We have to, under the Constitution, carefully examine the facts and then make a judgment on whether or not he should be expelled from office."

Gephardt spent Monday talking with House Democrats about their concerns over the effects of the presidential scandal.

Administration aides urged Democrats in Congress to declare the scandal over after Mr. Clinton admitted his "inappropriate relationship" with Ms. Lewinsky.

But few congressional Democrats have done that in the week since the speech, and many have been openly critical of the president for the relationship and his handling of it.

According to congressional aides, the House members who spoke to Mr. Gephardt on Monday said they were "upset, disappointed, angry" with Mr. Clinton's speech and were "not willing to say this is over."

Several told Mr. Gephardt that it was a problem for the party that Mr. Clinton had not cleared the air with a "more definitive" explanation, the aides said.

Aboard his plane on Tuesday, Mr. Gephardt said, "There's going to be a lot more said and written about it before we're done."

Mr. Gephardt said he had not spoken to Mr. Clinton since the president's speech. The two men have never been close, and Mr. Gephardt never disguised his disapproval of Mr. Clinton's sexual behavior.

"I'm very disappointed in what he did," Mr. Gephardt said, echoing comments he made immediately following Mr. Clinton's speech. "There is no way to condone his behavior, the whole totality of what happened in the White House, and what he said about it afterward."

Mr. Gephardt is a prospective presidential candidate in 2000. He was on a three-day campaign swing to help some of the party's most promising House candidates. But he and the candidates he stopped with had to spend much of the day fielding questions about the scandal.

Party Chairman Feels Conflicted

Dan Balz of *The Washington Post* filed this report on another major leader of the Democratic Party:

Roy Romer, the governor of Colorado and the national chairman of the Democratic Party, said that the presidential scandal had thrust him face-to-face with the conflicting obligations of loyalty, advocacy and credibility.

Mr. Romer spelled out his feelings in an interview on Tuesday about the events of the past week and the challenges ahead. Mr. Romer talked about the failure of Mr. Clinton's speech to clear the air, Mr. Romer's determination not to let the investigation overwhelm the Democratic message this autumn

and his conviction that frank talk about the president's situation, not political spin, was the only safe course.

"We've got to get beyond this," he said. "But the speech" — and there was an audible sigh as he continued — "didn't quite do it. And it didn't because it sounded like too much explanation."

Those are words Mr. Romer knows will cause anxiety among some supporters of Mr. Clinton, so with the next breath he sought to leave no doubt that he included himself in that camp. "I've got to tell you, I care deeply about him," Mr. Romer said of Mr. Clinton. "He's a really good human being. He's got a lot of gifts. He's got a lot of great talent, and I just want to be a part of getting that to work again."

Few Democrats are in as difficult a position as Mr. Romer, who must lead the defense of the president and rally his party for the midterm elections. He thinks that blind loyalty to the president might lack credibility at the moment.

"If Congress decides to go forward with an impeachment process, we will be involved in perhaps the most important task the Congress will ever have," he said during a stop here. "We have to, under the Constitution, carefully examine the facts and then make a judgment on whether or not he should be expelled from office."

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EUROPE

3 Aid Workers Are Killed in Kosovo

New York Times Service

KOJEVO, Serbia — Three people bringing supplies to Kosovo Albanian refugees have been killed by gunfire from a police vehicle in what appears to be the most serious government effort yet to harass aid workers.

The three, all ethnic Albanians working for the Mother Teresa relief organization, were killed Monday as they rode on tractors pulling wagons loaded with supplies for some of the refugees who have fled a military offensive in Kosovo.

The number of refugees has grown to about 300,000.

The wagons were piled with food and white boxes with large blue circles bearing the name of the donor, Doctors of the World.

Still, a government statement explained the shooting by saying the police in an armored personnel carrier could not see what was in the wagons and became suspicious and opened fire.

The attack occurred in a field at mid-afternoon in the village of Vlaski Drevo.

The three slain aid workers were local representatives of the Mother Teresa

group, which handles distribution of international supplies.

The attack seems to confirm the suspicions of many relief workers that the government has decided to make distributing food and other aid more dangerous, both for the aid workers and the refugees.

The Yugoslav government's military offensive, which began five weeks ago, has hurt the rebels, but it has brought disaster to civilians.

International relief workers estimate as many as 20,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed by the advancing forces.

With troops continuing to shell and burn villages, most refugees are afraid to return home or have no homes left.

Getting adequate supplies to many of the civilians has been impossible because they have scattered into small groups in remote areas to avoid government attacks.

"It sounded like paranoia at first, but we looked a little closer and it did not seem crazy," said a senior official for a nonprofit aid agency. "There is a lot of shelling so you can't be absolutely sure, but if you look at where the supply convoys go and then see what happens the next day or so, you begin to see a pattern."

Some foreign diplomats in Yugoslavia say they believe Belgrade's strategy is to make civilians pay a high cost for their support of the rebels, known as the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Kosovo is a province of Serbia, one of the two republics that make up what remains of Yugoslavia. The other is Montenegro.

Ethnic Albanians are about 90 percent of the population of Kosovo, and most of the rest are ethnic Serbs. The Kosovo Liberation Army wants to break away from Serbia to form an independent country.

Diplomats say the government's tactics are inhumane and, with aid being restricted, are likely to cause many deaths among the refugees, especially among the infants and the elderly, and more so as the Balkan winter approaches and possibly 100,000 refugees are homeless.

Aid groups will not be able to cope with the most basic needs of refugees unless the offensive stops immediately, officials of the groups say.

Western diplomacy has failed to stop the offensive, and NATO air strikes have been threatened. But diplomats and senior aid officials say that they think air strikes may be out of the question because the Yugoslav government could retaliate by blocking relief supplies to refugees.

Yugoslav troops continued their tactics of forcing civilians into flight and then destroying their homes.

One valley away from the Monday killings, dozens of homes were burning Tuesday as tanks moved along the roads.

A reporter was repeatedly blocked Tuesday from reaching the area where the relief workers were killed.

A videotape of the scene Tuesday showed two trucks that had been hit by large-caliber rounds.

Relief supplies in one wagon were still burning.

Villagers told reporters that the dead had been buried at night so the police could not fire on mourners.



Klaus-Dietrich/Reuters

Bertie Ahern and Tony Blair pledging coordinated action Wednesday.

Tribunal at The Hague Pushes War-Crime Probes

UN Inquiries in Kosovo Aimed at Both Sides

By Marlise Simons
New York Times Service

THE HAGUE — As NATO threats of military action have failed to stop the fighting in Kosovo, the United Nations war crimes tribunal has stepped up its investigations in the Serbian province.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has assembled a team of investigators, lawyers and military analysts to focus exclusively on Kosovo, tribunal officials said. Members of that team have made their first fact-finding mission to the area and are scheduled to go again soon.

The investigators have instructions to identify the people responsible for the ongoing shelling and torching of civilian areas in Kosovo. They also are examining reports that numerous civilians, most of them ethnic Albanians, have been kidnapped and killed in circumstances that cannot be defined as military combat.

In recent weeks, thanks to additional UN funds earmarked for Kosovo, the tribunal has been able to hire about a dozen new experts.

"Kosovo is definitely one of our priorities," said Graham Blewitt, the tribunal's deputy prosecutor. "We are doing all we can, collecting information, assembling cases and drawing up plans for indictments." He added that the tribunal was looking into war crimes by both parties to the conflict, a comment that seemed to address charges from Serbia that the tribunal was anti-Serb.

"Our investigation involves not just Serbs but also the Kosovo Liberation Army," he said. "There are allegations of war crimes on both sides."

Since the conflict in Kosovo began early this year, the Security Council, which created the tribunal in 1993, has maintained that the court's jurisdiction includes Kosovo. The tribunal's chief prosecutor has repeated the point in the face of Serbian claims that events in Kosovo are an internal affair.

The dispute over war crimes, even as they are going on, once again raises the question of the purpose of the tribunal and whether it can fulfill its role to help heal war wounds and act as a deterrent. The six trials under way at The Hague involve war crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia.

Human rights activists, aid workers and military observers report that 240,000 people, perhaps a tenth of the population of Kosovo, have been left homeless by the Serbian drive to secure the province from rebels who are fighting for independence.

However remote the court may be from Kosovo, some tribunal officials say it has made a difference.

"We got more reports of atrocities, of summary executions, kidnappings and murders by the Serb police earlier this year," a senior official said. "There's obviously still a lot of suffering and destruction. But we're not getting as much evidence of atrocities in the past few months since the prosecutor made it clear that the tribunal is involved."

It would be hard to prove, he said, "but it is possible that the prosecutor's several warnings have lessened the crimes."

"It is also possible," he added, "that the Serbian military who got more involved from June onward had different instructions."

BRIEFLY

2 New Crosses Fuel Auschwitz Dispute

CZESTOCHOWA, Poland — Prospects for ending a row between radical Roman Catholics and Jewish groups over crosses erected at Auschwitz seemed remote Wednesday after two more crosses went up at the site.

Defying a call Tuesday by Polish bishops to remove crosses recently erected just outside the former Nazi death camp, nationalists Catholics planted two more large crosses, the PAP news agency said.

The bishops, meeting in Czestochowa, had called for more than 220 smaller crosses to be removed from the site, but that a larger one, under which Pope John Paul II prayed in 1979, should stay. It was moved to its present site in 1968. (Reuters)

Le Pen Party Aids Swedish Far-Right

STOCKHOLM — The leader of France's extreme-right National Front, Jean-Marie Le Pen, is helping to fund a far-right party in Sweden ahead of Sept. 20 general elections, he told a Swedish newspaper Wednesday.

Mr. Le Pen said in an interview with Nordvästra Skånes Tidningar that his party would pay for about eight tons of campaign material for the Sweden Democrats. He declined to give the cost.

"The Sweden Democrats are a new, young and poor party," he said. "We are in the National Front to remember the enormous material difficulties that we were forced to overcome when we started."

The Sweden Democrats fielded candidates for the first time in Sweden's last general elections, in 1994, when they received 12,651 votes. They would need to gain more than 10 times that number to stand a chance of winning any Parliament seats. (Reuters)

Doris Dreyer/The Associated Press
YOU SAY 'TOMATINA' — Youths throwing tomatoes Wednesday during an annual festival in Bunol, Spain.

group ETA has moved from France to Belgium in search of a safer haven, a Spanish newspaper said Wednesday.

Without citing its sources, the daily *El Mundo* said the authorities believed that three ETA members had set up headquarters in Belgium. It identified the three as Iñaki Gracia Arregi, Mikel Albiar Iriarte and Eusebio Arzalluz.

But a Spanish Interior Ministry spokesman called the report "pure speculation" and said the authorities had no indication that ETA leaders were in Belgium. (AP)

12 Turkish Islamists Face Fraud Charges

ANKARA — Turkey's chief prosecutor has begun legal action against 12 of the country's leading Islamic politicians, including Necati Kutan, who leads the Virtue Party, the biggest party in Parliament, and former Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

The prosecutor, Vural Savas, accused the 12 of misappropriating \$3.6 million in party funds and said he had asked that fraud cases be opened against them.

All were members of the pro-Islamic Welfare Party until it was banned by the Constitutional Court in January as "a rallying point for anti-secularist activities." (WP)

Conservative Forces Rally Around Juppe

PARIS — Party stalwarts rallied Wednesday behind former Prime Minister Alain Juppe as he defended himself against graft charges and sought at the same time to distance President Jacques Chirac from the scandal.

"Juppe Covers Chirac," the leftist *Liberal* said in a headline, while the conservative *Le Figaro* said more soberly that Mr. Juppe was "taking responsibility." (AFP)

Is ETA in Belgium? Madrid Casts Doubt

MADRID — Police believe the leadership of the Basque separatist guerrilla

Kohl's Party Gains in One Poll, Loses Ground in 2d

Reuters

BONN — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union slightly narrowed the gap with the opposition Social Democrats in one opinion poll published on Wednesday, but a second survey found Mr. Kohl's party had fallen farther behind.

A survey by the conservative Alensbach institute found the Christian Democrats at 35.2 percent, up from 34.5 percent a week ago. It said Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats slipped from 42.9 percent to 42.7 percent.

But Mr. Schroeder's lead on Mr. Kohl in the campaign for the Sept. 27 elections widened from five points to six in a separate survey by the Forsa polling institute.

"We are seeing parallels between the improving economic climate and the improving outlook for the CDU," said Edgar Piel of the Alensbach institute. "An improving economy has always helped the CDU. That was a big factor in 1994."

The Alensbach survey of 2,000 voters, which was published in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, was conducted between Aug. 8 and 16. It has a margin of error of 2 percentage points.

The Forsa survey for RTL television found the Social Democrats steady at 43 percent while the Christian Democrats slipped one point to 37 percent.

The Forsa survey was conducted between Aug. 17 and 21 and was based on interviews with 2,513 voters. It has a 2.5-point margin of error.

Forsa had both the Free Democrats and the Greens at 5 percent, representing a rise and a fall of 1 percentage point, respectively, and the Party of Democratic Socialism, or reformed Communists, was steady at 4 percent.

The Alensbach survey also had the three small parties near the 5 percent threshold needed for representation. The Greens were at 6.3 percent, down from 7.0 percent, while the Free Democrats were up from 5.8 percent to 6.0 percent.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kohl's parliamentary chief said Wednesday that the chancellor might not serve a full four-year term if he is re-elected.

Wolfgang Schaeuble, Mr. Kohl's preferred successor, said to the weekly *Die Woche* that the chancellor was running for a full term but that did not completely rule out handing over power before 2002.

"Kohl has said he's running for four years, but at the end of the day he's also left things a little open about what could happen in those four years," Mr. Schaeuble told *Die Woche* in remarks released ahead of the newspaper's publication on Thursday.

Mr. Kohl said last year he hoped Mr. Schaeuble, head of the conservatives' parliamentary group, would take over from him, but the chancellor has declined to say when the handover should take place.

Yeltsin Avoids Kremlin Amid Economic Turmoil

Back From Vacation, but Commuting Infrequently

Reuters

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin stayed away from the Kremlin on Wednesday as the ruble and financial markets suffered sharp falls, and remained at his suburban dacha, the Kremlin said.

"He sometimes works in the Kremlin; he sometimes works at the suburban residence," said Alexei Gromov, a Kremlin spokesman. "It's far from every day that he comes to the Kremlin."

Mr. Yeltsin, who holds the overwhelming balance of power under the Russian constitution as well as the button to the country's nuclear arsenal, returned to Moscow on Monday from a five-week vacation, amid a severe economic crisis that led to a devaluation of the ruble and an effective default on some foreign debt.

Hours before coming back to the Kremlin, he dismissed the government of Prime Minister Sergei Kirilenko and brought back Viktor Chernomyrdin, whom he had fired in March.

The actions provoked a wave of new criticism of Mr. Yeltsin, who has a history of heart problems and acknowledged in his memoirs that he occasionally suffers from depression.

The president is in full, constant contact with Chernomyrdin and the leadership of his administration and he receives all his information in a timely fashion," Mr. Gromov said. "He is up to date on all events."

The Kremlin said Mr. Yeltsin spoke with Mr. Chernomyrdin on Wednesday afternoon. It said Mr. Yeltsin approved of the acting prime minister's efforts to form a new government.

But economic turmoil continued on

Wednesday as the central bank suspended sales of dollars to banks to bar further plunges in the ruble, prompting a surge in demand for the Deutsche mark, which rose about 40 percent against the Russian currency.

Kremlin officials said Mr. Yeltsin's health, a cause of concern since he underwent heart surgery and then caught pneumonia in the autumn and winter of 1996-97, was fine.

"He had meetings all of yesterday, meeting with ambassadors, with the Vietnamese premier," said Viktor Vershinin, deputy to Mr. Yeltsin's chief of staff, on Wednesday. "I think all is normal. There is no cause for concern."

Mr. Yeltsin has periodically disappeared from public view for weeks at a time during his presidency, which began in 1991. But his erratic behavior and lapses of concentration have sparked growing concern during the current crisis.

"In general, he understands what is happening. But in details? I am not sure," said Boris Nemtsov, former deputy prime minister.

During his meeting with President Tran Duc Luong of Vietnam on Tuesday, Mr. Yeltsin dismissed fears about his health.

"Now everything is fine," he said.

The Vietnamese leader said Mr. Yeltsin looked "younger than in photographs," to which a smiling Mr. Yeltsin replied that the fault lay with the photographers, not his health.

Mr. Gromov said Mr. Yeltsin's next scheduled meeting would be with President Petar Stoyanov of Bulgaria on Friday and that no meetings had been scheduled for Thursday.

FOR INVESTMENT INFORMATION

Read THE MONEY REPORT

every Saturday in the IHT.

INTERNATIONAL

Gunfire Resounds Through Kinshasa as Government and Rebels Clash

By Norimitsu Onishi
New York Times Service

KINSHASA, Congo — The sound of explosives and gunfire reverberated throughout the capital Wednesday, as government and rebel forces fought each other on the city's outskirts.

The government of President Laurent Kabila said its forces and allies had attacked a column of rebel soldiers with machine guns, mortars and rockets. The fighting was concentrated near the Kinshasa airport, about 26 kilometers (16 miles) from the city's center, and it was not clear whether the rebels were returning fire.

In the city's diplomatic and business center, government soldiers blocked roads, prevented people from circulating on the streets, and checked the trunks of vehicles coming into the area. Government trucks filled with soldiers and armored tanks could be seen rumbling toward the residence of Mr. Kabila, leaving wide white tracks on the asphalt.

In La Cite, where most of the city's five million people live, residents said the streets were deserted in the morning, as government soldiers told people to stay home. Later in the afternoon, after the shelling had died down, residents said soldiers had started allowing people to travel.

"There's public transportation now and we can circulate," said a Unicef worker who lives in La Cite. "But there are barricades everywhere and the soldiers are not allowing us to carry our cellular phones."

By nightfall, after a 12-hour curfew went into effect at 6 P.M., the streets were calm and the sound of fighting had ceased.

But it was unclear, Western diplomats and local businessmen said, whether the silence signified that the government had succeeded in crushing the rebels' attempt to seize Kinshasa, or whether it meant that the rebels were regrouping and planning another assault at night or in the morning.

"It could be either of those things," said a European ambassador in Kinshasa. "It could be that we're witnessing the actions of a lone rebel holdout, or it could be something much more significant than that. I'm not planning to go out tonight to find out."

In recent days, the rebels seeking to overthrow Mr. Kabila have been in retreat in the region southwest of here since Angola and Zimbabwe began providing arms and troops to Mr. Kabila's beleaguered army. With the help of the two allies, government forces recaptured a critical military airport. And, although rebels still hold a hydroelectric

dam that supplies power to this region, the government and its allies had appeared to have eliminated the threat to Kinshasa, which at one point seemed likely to fall any minute.

But even as the government and its allies made progress in the southwest, an unknown number of rebels lingered in the areas just southwest of Kinshasa.

So as not to alarm the local population, the government has downplayed the nearby presence of the rebels; it pursued that line Wednesday, saying the fighting merely amounted to steps to completely eliminate the rebels from the area.

"It's the beginning of the end for them," said Dr. Jean-Baptiste Sondji, the government's health minister and a member of Mr. Kabila's cabinet. "We're not completely free yet of these infiltrators. They could still inflict some small damage on us. But it's the beginning of the end."

Dr. Sondji said the government forces and their allies attacked a rebel column of 500 soldiers, most of them former soldiers in the army of the long-time dictator, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, whom Mr. Kabila overthrew less than two years ago.

The rebels are led by ethnic Tutsi from eastern Congo and Uganda, the two

countries that propelled Mr. Kabila to power and then became disenchanted with the Congolese president. But the rebels in the southwest have also included former Mobutu soldiers who are not Tutsi and can mix more easily with the local Congolese population.

Dr. Sondji said that 300 of the soldiers surrendered, and 200 fled into a field near the airport. Many were killed, he said.

His report could not be independently verified. But the manager of a charter company at the airport, which has been shuttling fleeing residents across the Congo River to Brazzaville, in the Republic of Congo, said that soldiers had swarmed into the area and that all flights had been canceled.

A hotel employee, who lives near the airport and left for work in central Kinshasa at 6 A.M., said the soldiers had arrived in the area by that hour. But he said that the shelling had not started yet.

The sound of gunfire and explosives had been echoing in central Kinshasa after 7:30 A.M. and continued with some intensity for about an hour. The boom of explosives, and what appeared to be return fire, went on until around 2 P.M.

Rwanda Threatens to Intervene

Rwanda on Wednesday accused Mr. Kabila of ordering the killing of ethnic Tutsi and issued a warning that it might enter the conflict in Congo to protect them, Reuters reported from Kigali, Rwanda.

"Rwanda could intervene in the

Congo crisis if necessary if Kabila pursues the initiative he has undertaken to exterminate foreign nationals or Congolese on the pretext that they are Tutsi or Rwandans," said Patrick Maziwa, a minister in the Rwandan president's office.

"We have no doubt that Kabila has the agenda to exterminate Tutsi, the people of Masisi and the Banyamulenge west of Lake Tanganyika."

Independent sources say Rwanda's Tutsi-dominated government is backing rebels fighting to oust Mr. Kabila, but the Kagame government has denied it is involved in the rebellion.

Justification for Attack In Sudan Still Disputed

By Vernon Loeb
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Employees of the current and former owners of the pharmaceutical plant in Sudan struck by U.S. missiles have kept alive the question of whether it was a legitimate target.

U.S. officials have said that they had evidence that the plant was involved in producing a deadly nerve agent.

But Tom Carnahan, a consulting engineer in London who worked for the former Saudi owner of El Shifa Pharmaceutical Industries Inc. in Khartoum from the moment the plant was built, said he saw no signs of chemical weapons production.

"I can put my hand on my heart and say, up until April, when I left, I know it wasn't happening," he said.

Ghazi Suliman, an attorney for the current owner of the plant, Salaheldin Idris, a Sudanese who bought it this

spring, added, "We had no idea, and it didn't come across our mind, and we didn't hear any rumors previously, that this factory was involved in chemical weapons."

On Monday, senior U.S. intelligence officers said they possessed soil samples taken from the site that contained a chemical that could only be used to make the nerve agent VX.

At first, the administration had said it had targeted the Khartoum facility in part because Osama bin Laden, the Saudi who is described by the Americans as their prime suspect in the bombings of two embassies, held a financial interest in the plant.

President Bill Clinton said that U.S. forces had "attacked a factory in Sudan associated with the bin Laden network."

Within days, U.S. officials began pulling back from directly linking Mr. bin Laden to El Shifa Pharmaceutical.

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TribTech

Computers Join You in Driver's Seat

They Manage Engines In New Cars as Well as Braking and Traction

By Richard Stepler

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — After a long day spent in front of your computer screen you need a change of scenery. You get behind the wheel of your car, start the ignition and step on the gas pedal. Once on the open road, you feel the rush of freedom, leaving the world of binary code far behind. "You are wrong. Chances are, if your car was built in the last 20 years, you have traded one computer for many."

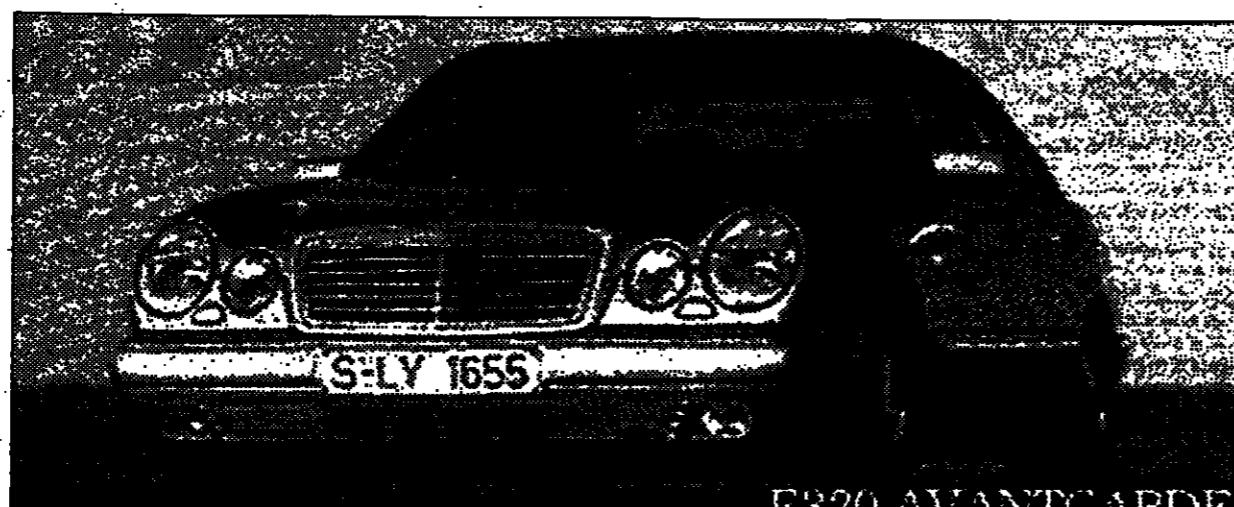
Take, for example, the simple task of stepping on the accelerator. No connection of modern human beings to machinery is more visceral and familiar. It is the simplest and most satisfying of bidirectional interfaces: The heavier the foot, the faster the car goes.

But in the new Volvo S80, the company's flagship sedan to be released this autumn, there is no physical link between the accelerator pedal and the six-cylinder engine. When you depress the accelerator, you are actually sending a digital signal to the engine-management computer to open the throttle on the engine.

The benefits include smoother operation and lower fuel consumption and emissions. The pedal, however, might as well be a mouse.

The accelerator is only the beginning. Computers provide the smarts for many of the S80's other components, including its electronic transmission, anti-lock braking, traction control, climate control, navigation and communication systems.

And in more or less the same way that a personal computer can be upgraded from 16 megabytes to 32 megabytes of RAM, the S80's turbocharger can be upgraded, adding 50 more horsepower, be-



E320 AVANTGARDE

The 1999 models of the Mercedes-Benz E-Class will have computer-run side "curtains" for collision protection, simply by changing the software in the engine-management computer.

The company says that the S80 has "more computers than a jet fighter." While that may be hyperbole, the car very likely represents the state of the art in the marriage of the computer and the car. It may also represent the beginning of a very different relationship between drivers and their beloved vehicles.

Microprocessor-controlled anti-theft systems — combined with a Global Positioning Satellite system and a cellular phone — can track a stolen car and even let the police eavesdrop on conversations inside the vehicle. Instrumentation, driver information displays — how far left to go until empty — climate control and entertainment systems get their brains from computers.

Even the hand-held portable computer has found a home inside the car, via an infrared docking port in a prototype system. In some cars, a computer can even tell you how to fix a flat tire. Unfortunately, it still can't do it for you.

OF COURSE, the progress of a computerized car hasn't been a completely bump-free joy ride. Consider the annoying and short-lived fad for cars that "talked" in the early 1980s, insistently reminding passengers to fasten seat belts or that a door was "ajar." It was as though the car had become its own back-seat driver.

Sensitive to the failure of these frivolities, automakers are taking a more pragmatic approach to the incorporation of computers in their latest offerings. Their functions are typically transparent

to the car's driver and passengers.

Take, for example, the spin-out. In the days before on-board computers, drivers were taught to turn the steering wheel in the direction the car was skidding to maintain control. That is no longer necessary if the car is equipped with a stability control system, like those found in models sold by BMW, Cadillac, Mercedes-Benz and Lexus.

Stability control systems receive data from several sensors, typically updated every 40 milliseconds. For example, a steering wheel position sensor, as the name implies, tells the system where the driver intends the car to go.

Data on what the car is actually doing are provided by sensors for wheel speed, sideways acceleration and the yaw rate — the rotation of the vehicle around a vertical axis.

The computer compares the car's dynamic performance as measured by this data with a model stored in memory. Then it compares that with the driver's intentions. If the computer detects an incipient out-of-control situation — the car is under-steering or over-steering — it orders the engine computer to reduce power or to apply the brakes on one or two wheels to keep the car going in the direction the driver intends.

"It's not a dramatic feeling," said Frank Markus, technical director at the magazine *Car & Driver*. "As you turn the wheel, you'll feel some momentary slipping, but there's not a lot of jerky motion. You sense the car slowing down and turning in the direction you want."

Of course, there is nothing for the driver to do other than to trust that the system will work. "It's like an invisible hand of God has come down to rescue you," said Don Sherman, a contributing editor at *Popular Science* magazine.

What is the car with the most computer chips in the land today? According to Fred Heiler, a spokesman for Mercedes-Benz, it's the automaker's flagship S-Class sedan, which, depending on options, contains between 33 and 40 computers.

"The auto industry has introduced so many new electrical features that the electrical systems themselves are becoming a problem," said Sven Eckstein, deputy chief executive of Volvo. "The wiring has become heavy, bulky and very complex. The number of connections has increased dramatically."

One way to reduce the complexity is with an on-board computer network. In 1992, Mercedes-Benz introduced the first computer area network in its S-Class models.

"In simple terms," said Dave Acton, a director of electrical engineering at General Motors Corp., "it means sending a number of digitally coded messages down the same wire, something like the old telephone party lines. One of the benefits is to permit every electronic module in need of a piece of data — road speed, for example — to obtain that information without having to send it to each module on a separate wire."

ALT /Commentary

Netsearching Yourself

Surprisingly, You May Be Hard to Find

By Gina Rarick
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — I was lying awake at 4 A.M., so I decided to find myself.

I logged onto the Internet, went to the Yahoo People Search and typed in my name. No matches, came the reply. So I tried a few more — Excite, BigFoot, Lycos — all with the same result.

After a few moments of existential panic, a whole raft of new ideas came flooding in. If I couldn't find myself, maybe the IRS couldn't either. I could stop paying taxes! And while I'm at it, I could stop paying a whole bunch of other pesky bills, too.

But with the sunrise came a dose of reality, along with more than a little electronic indignation. Why didn't I exist in cyberspace? After all, I have an e-mail address — two of them, as a matter of fact. My byline has appeared on a few articles for this newspaper that have also appeared on its Web site, and in past years I've had hundreds of bylines for other newspapers that also have Web sites. I'm in the phone company's white pages.

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Escalation in Africa

Troops, planes and tanks from Angola, Zimbabwe, Uganda and probably Rwanda are now intervening on one side or the other of Congo's civil war. Their actions blatantly violate international borders and set an alarming precedent for turning other civil wars, like those in Sudan and Angola, into regional conflicts. The fighting could hasten the breakup of the huge but fractious Congo, creating a breeding ground for drug traffickers, warlords and terrorists in the heart of Africa.

The United States, which has good relations with several participants, has paid too little attention. South Africa's Nelson Mandela has tried to negotiate a cease-fire, only to be rebuffed by Angola and Zimbabwe and their ally, the Congolese president, Laurent Kabila. All seem to think they have more to gain from continued bloodshed.

The Clinton administration should use its influence with Angola, Rwanda and Uganda to help Mr. Mandela's efforts succeed. Angola is cool to the cease-fire proposal, but Uganda and Rwanda support it, perhaps hoping to lock in the gains of their rebel allies. Washington must insist that these countries halt aid to the rebels and commit to keeping Congo unified.

It should also press the UN Security Council to take a stronger stand. Maintaining the sanctity of international borders is supposed to be one of the

United Nations' basic missions. More active interest by the Security Council would make it easier for Secretary-General Kofi Annan to lobby African leaders for a cease-fire and an end to foreign intervention when he travels to South Africa next week.

Three of the four countries intervening are hoping to ease their own security problems. Uganda and Rwanda are threatened by rebels who find sanctuary on Congolese soil. They hope that by sponsoring a rebellion they could replace Mr. Kabila with someone who would do more to keep Ugandan rebels and Rwandan Hutu militias from staging cross-border raids into their countries. Angola then sent troops to defend Mr. Kabila, mainly because it fears that a rebel victory would allow Angola's own anti-government UNITA movement to establish Congolese sanctuaries. Zimbabwe's involvement stems from President Robert Mugabe's ambitions for regional military leadership and his jealousy of Nelson Mandela.

Yet all these intervening countries, although they may be temporarily blinded to it, have a transcending interest in allowing an Africa now finally free of superpower proxy contests to develop in peace. America, which shares that interest, should do more to help end this dangerous conflict.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Terrorism on Trial

The United States and Britain have now agreed to meet Libya's demand for a neutral third-country venue to try the two Libyan agents accused of blowing up Pan Am 103 over Scotland in 1988, killing 270 people. Muammar Gadhafi had insisted that there was no other way to ensure whatever he means by fairness. It is distasteful to be subjected to strictures on due process by a mass murderer. But it was necessary to act to prevent further weakening of the principal international lever on Colonel Gadhafi, the United Nations ban on air travel to and from Libya.

For the West, the main point always was to establish accountability for a gross crime. The mechanism was to be a trial conducted under Western standards. From the take-it-or-leave-it announcements made in Washington and London, this standard now stands to be met. A Scottish courtroom is to be set up in the Netherlands, with Scottish prosecutor, judges and rules of law. Any sentence — the maximum is 30 years imprisonment — would be served in Scotland.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

A Money Machine

The biggest bull market of the past 15 years has been in capitalism itself, and no company has been better positioned to profit from it than Goldman, Sachs, the investment banking firm that has until now jealousy guarded its financial details. Now, in preparation for selling stock to the public, Goldman has lifted the veil a bit.

Last year its profit came to fully 53 percent of the money its partners had invested. That is the kind of performance that one might think could not be maintained, but in the first six months of this year Goldman did even better. It made \$2.1 billion, an annualized return of 65 percent on the \$6.6 billion the partners have invested. It should be noted that because Goldman is a partnership, the figures are before taxes and do not take into account the substantial amount of money paid out to the 189 partners of Goldman. But they are still high by any standard.

Goldman's business is inherently risky. Its profits from trading stock fell late last year, when markets briefly

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Other Comment

North Korean Madness

North Korea is a country where schoolchildren still receive three hours of "political education" per day, where enormous signs scream out ideological slogans at street corners and along highways, and "inspirational" music is played in town squares and on the single television station.

The Red Cross, the World Food Program, the Food and Agriculture Organization and various other aid agencies distribute aid and try to dispense advice on how North Korea could better fend for itself. But the most minor

proposed changes in agricultural practices assault the regime's daily message that the leader's genius is the exclusive source of sound policy.

Every day the state media spout vitriol about the "wayward" Americans. Keeping up defense spending against this threat taps what remains of the economy. Yet the North Koreans need the "threat" from the United States. To negotiate it away would leave them feeling pretty empty. Meeting the threat is a waste of resources, but deciding it does not exist is ideologically unsatisfactory.

—John Chipman in *Newsweek*.

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Protect Refugee Women as They Gather Firewood

By Mary Anne Fitzgerald and Shep Lowman

WASHINGTON — Refugee camps are meant to be safe havens for people who have fled violence in their homelands. International organizations have a responsibility to protect refugees. But violence against female refugees has reached serious proportions.

Women are often most vulnerable when they carry out routine daily tasks, such as gathering firewood.

In most refugee camps around the world, women have only one choice in obtaining fuel for their cooking fires. They must venture beyond the camp perimeters, sometimes walking 30 kilometers, to forage for wood. Exposed and far from help, they risk brutal sexual assaults. Often the victims are shot, knifed or beaten into submission.

Statistics from the Dadaab camp for Somali refugees in northeastern Kenya show that the incidence of rape early this year shot up to almost triple that of last year. Girls of 10 and women of 50 were gang raped by groups of up to a dozen armed bandits. Similar cases are reported from other parts of the world. As most of these rape victims come

from deeply traditional societies, they face divorce by their husbands and ostracism from their community at the very time they most need support.

At Kakuma, another camp in Kenya, a 12-year-old girl was pulled behind a fence and raped by five men as she walked to school. Now she is an outcast. She says stones are thrown at her as she walks down the road. She has stopped going to school and will not leave her hut.

Shame and guilt engendered by cultural beliefs lead to a gross under-reporting of rape. This denies the victims access to treatment for the psychological and physical aftermath. Refugee women who have been raped remain traumatized and have little hope of ever leading a normal life.

Protecting refugee women is a challenge, especially when they must roam far and wide to accomplish their daily tasks. Men won't gather firewood. The bandits would kill them, they say.

In Kenya, refugee camps are deliberately set up far from main towns, so

the logistics and transport costs for alternative fuels such as kerosene have proved difficult and expensive. Contracting out the collection of firewood to large outside suppliers can undermine small, local businesses and relations between refugees and local communities. Bad relations between refugees and communities can cause a backlash of political and security problems.

The problems associated with the simple act of providing firewood to reduce the incidence of rape are difficult. International organizations need to plan ahead for such problems.

At Dadaab, the United States contributed \$1.5 million to buy firewood, but carrying out the program is complicated by all the factors listed above. Simply to buy firewood is expensive and can cause problems as serious as those it tries to solve. Longer-term, and more cost-efficient solutions must be found.

The Great Lakes crisis in 1994 brought a sudden influx of a million refugees into Zaire and tested the system's ability to provide firewood to

a population the size of a large city. A survey conducted in the camps showed that refugees were cooking on drafty fires, did not cover their cooking pots and failed to extinguish fires after use. A first step would be to develop protocols for the refugees in firewood conservation.

Although probably not practical in rainless areas like Dadaab, one solution could be plantations of fast-growing trees. There are species that can be harvested after only four years.

One is left with the sense that international agencies still do not really know how to deal with the relationship between firewood and rape. Women are 58 percent of the world's adult refugee population. They do not shirk from their responsibility to gather firewood for their families. The international community should protect them.

The writers are senior members of Refugees International, the humanitarian advocacy organization, and recently visited refugee camps in Kenya. They contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

To Combat Terrorism, Address Muslims' Real Problems

By Graham E. Fuller

WASHINGTON — The deadly terrorism in Kenya and Tanzania and the U.S. military response in Sudan and Afghanistan threaten to draw the United States deeper into a strategic no-win bind.

The outrageous twin attacks on U.S. embassies in Africa, with their massive killing of innocent bystanders, could not go unanswered, especially when reportedly good intelligence made it clear who the perpetrators were and that further attacks might be imminent. No one could argue for inaction or a failure to respond.

The problem is that the issue does not end here. Sooner or later, retaliation is probable from a variety of radical and zealous groups, even individuals. Now even administration officials

speak of a possible "coming war" against terrorism.

But these terrorist attacks have not taken place in a vacuum. It is dangerous to divorce terrorism from politics, yet the U.S. media continues to talk about an abstract "war against terrorism" without mention of the issues or context that lie behind them.

If a war against terrorism is coming, Americans had better start discussing and understanding more clearly the depth and range of impulses that drive people in the Middle East, a discussion so far stunningly absent from public discourse.

There is no monolithic Muslim bloc, but a few deeply held attitudes are quite evident.

They see a Washington unwilling to act evenhandedly in the Arab-Israeli peace process and infinitely tolerant of a hard-line government in Israel that denies Palestinians land, dignity and statehood. They perceive double standards that allow Israel to violate UN resolutions, but not Iraq. Israeli nukes are O.K., but not nukes in Muslim hands.

They see routine use of U.S. unilateral military power against Muslim targets that is unparalleled elsewhere in the world. They see themselves routinely humbled by use of overwhelming Israeli military power. They see U.S. military forces in the Gulf as being there to protect ruling families and not populations — the essence of Osama bin Laden's charge.

Muslims are concerned that there are no Muslim Americans involved in high level U.S. policy-making in the Middle East but that Jewish Americans occupy nearly every senior position relating to U.S. Arab-Israeli policy.

They perceive no interest in Washington in pushing any kind of democratizing agenda in the region, and they hear casual talk of Islam as "incompatible with democracy." They see Iraqi children dying of disease and starvation and blame it on U.S. sanctions.

They perceive widespread caricaturization and demonization of Islam in Western media and films. They point to colonial regimes in the past seeking to weaken Islam and traditional Muslim culture.

They point to Muslims under siege in Palestine, Chechnya, Russia, Xinjiang (Chinese Turkestan), Bosnia, Kosovo, Kashmir, Eritrea, the Philippines and India, and often treated as second-class citizens in Europe. The list goes on.

These perceptions obviously do not fully reflect reality, and counterarguments can be made in many cases. But perceptions matter mightily, since they form the increasingly poisonous psychological backdrop against which distraught and angry Muslims end up championing those who overcome their impotence, stand up to the West and assert Muslim dignity.

Sadly, most Muslims in the region feel ambivalent about the embassy bombings. While rejecting terrorism in principle and sharing human sympathy for the loss of life, many also feel a touch of satisfaction that the United States partly got what it deserved.

Americans do not have to buy their rationale. And, realistically, the kind of terrorists that Mr. bin Laden represents would probably never be satisfied with any kind of U.S. policy change.

Their angers, fears and resentments lie deep and beyond debate. But the danger of getting drawn into an escalating war against terrorist groups which enjoy some public sympathy are very real. These attitudes form the backdrop that facilitates violent acts.

Well, senior Iraqi scientists are making a lot more VX in Iraq. But Mr. Clinton has given up the idea of raising his hand against these plants, so Sudan's served as a useful proxy.

Even a proxy attack can be useful if it signals a turning point in Clinton foreign policy, a decision to no longer permit America to be the doormat of tyrants. More likely, however, the bin Laden raids will turn out to be a spasm, a solitary and desperate attempt to divert attention from the foreign policy of least resistance, and failure.

Washington Post Writers Group.

Around the World, Bitter Friends and Happy Foes

By Anna Husarska

SARAJEVO — My local friends note with bitterness that the 18-month relationship between America's commander in chief and a White House intern started in the month the Dayton peace agreement was negotiated.

If the attention and energy of Bill Clinton had not been distracted, perhaps he would have been more dedicated to enforcing Dayton. Perhaps he would have rid Bosnia of the main indicted war criminals who are still free.

From the moment the Monica Lewinsky affair became known, it has been distracting the media, too. In January, the Pope was visiting Cuba. Here was a golden opportunity for many journalists to report from the country. In Havana, Cubans I spoke to were hoping the papal

visit would draw some of the world's attention to their plight. No such luck.

Just as the Cuban reporting was heating up, the Lewinsky story broke. Like wolves following the scent, American reporters flew from Havana to Washington. Television broadcasts were first split. Soon, however, bimbo coverage won, Cuba coverage lost.

The private wrongdoings of President Clinton are distracting him, distracting the media and undermining American foreign policy. With what delight the Serbian press has been reporting minutiae about the sex affair and about the investigation of possible cover-up by the papal

leader of the only superpower. In the spring, when Serbs in Kosovo demonstrated against American efforts to stop Slobodan Milosevic's crackdown on ethnic Albanians, they carried banners saying "Klinton, you are sex maniac." My Albanian friends struggled with embarrassment. Their negotiating position was obviously being hurt.

Opposition activists to whom I spoke last July in Cambodia made angry references to Mr. Clinton's "lady" problem as they resigned themselves to the news that the United States was being led to a rigged election in their country stand.

Around the globe, those who hope to be helped by America feel betrayed. Those who should fear it pooh-pooh its threats.

International Herald Tribune.

Forget the 'Severest Consequences' for Saddam

By Charles Krauthammer

inspectors "totally unacceptable" while dropping previous warnings of "severest consequences."

Having announced to the world that he would no longer send bombers out after Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, Bill Clinton sent missiles out after Saddam bin Laden.

Of course, the bin Laden raid is fully justified on its own terms. When American em-

ployees are attacked by a terrorist group openly declaring war on the United States, retaliation is to be expected.

But for six years this administration has pursued a foreign policy of romantic internationalism, trusting American security to treaties whose purpose is to abolish all the nastiness of the world — chemical weapons, nuclear tests, global warming — with the stroke of a pen.

It's only activism has been the injection of American force into two areas posing no threat whatsoever to the United States (Bosnia and Haiti) and deepening U.S. involvement in a third sideshow (Somalia). All the while, it abjures any significant use of force against those posing real and deadly threats to the United States: North Korea, Iraq, Iran, terrorists.

In 1994, North Korea broke the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and embarked on nuke building. How did Mr. Clinton react? By agreeing to supply it indefinitely with free oil while the United States and allies build for it two (ostensibly safer) \$5 billion nuclear reactors in return for a promise to freeze its weapons program.

It turns out that while taking this gigantic bribe North Korea was building a huge new nuclear facility inside a mountain.

Now Iraq. In a televised address to the nation in February, Mr. Clinton starkly declared what was at stake if Saddam were allowed to build his weapons of mass destruction: "If we fail to respond today, Saddam and all those who would follow in his footsteps will be emboldened tomorrow with the knowledge that they can probably be moved to safety."

If there is strong evidence that the Shifa plant had become a site for producing VX, the attacks can be justified. But until the administration discloses the evidence it has, worldwide skepticism will continue.

Milt Bearden, a former CIA chief in Pakistan and Sudan, commenting in The New York Times.

motionless after the bombing of two American embassies with their forfeiting what little international credibility he had left. The administration itself inadvertently made the connection to Iraq when it justified the attack on the Sudanese factory with the claim that senior Iraqi scientists were helping to make VX there.

Well, senior Iraqi scientists are

OPINION/LETTERS

People Are Getting Tired Of Rabid Investigations

By Robert J. Samuelson

WASHINGTON — By the polls, Americans are of two minds about President Bill Clinton. Their opinion of him as a person is sinking. A Time survey after his speech last week found that slightly more people do not respect him (50 percent) than do (48 percent).

"Most think he is still lying. 'Do you believe him when he said he didn't ask anyone to lie?'" was one question. The response: Fifty-one percent said "no," 38 percent "yes."

But Mr. Clinton's job approval rating remains high. A Newsweek poll put it at 62 percent. And 50 to 70 percent of Americans (by many polls) reject impeachment or believe that the independent counsel's investigation ought to end.

Many theories have been advanced to explain this apparent contradiction. With a strong economy, it is said that Americans do not want to disturb the status quo. Another theory is that although people do not trust Mr. Clinton, neither do they trust the Republican Congress; they like the existing balance of power and value Mr. Clinton's ability to frustrate his opponents. Then there is the notion, supported by many polls, that people distinguish between private behavior and public performance; the anti-terrorist attack last week may increase the importance of this factor. Finally, there is "scandal fatigue."

All these theories may be somewhat true. But I think something else also accounts for public ambivalence toward Mr. Clinton and his scandal. It is a backlash against what I once called "the attack culture." This is the corruption of normal public investigations — by congressional committees, the press and independent counsels and prosecutors. They become less concerned with uncovering wrongdoing than with politically ruining the accused.

People instinctively find the process baffling, unfair and self-destructive. They do not wish to reward and perpetuate it by making Mr. Clinton the latest and largest kill.

I use the word "kill," advisedly, because we in Washington treat the entire process as blood sport. We constantly speculate on the tactics and motives of the players. We handicap Mr. Clinton's chances of surviving and sermonize on everyone's ethics. This has become a booming cottage industry for the press, lawyers, politicians and publicists. Rarely has so much been said by so many on the basis of so little.

On one level, it is hard to accept all the public's expressed distaste for this. Many people enjoy the spectacle. The story is so rich in betrayal, deceit and hypocrisy — as well as sex and power — that it is inherently engrossing. Mr. Clinton, if nothing else, has achieved the final merger of entertainment and politics.

But at another level, the public genuinely disapproves of the process that brought Mr. Clinton low.

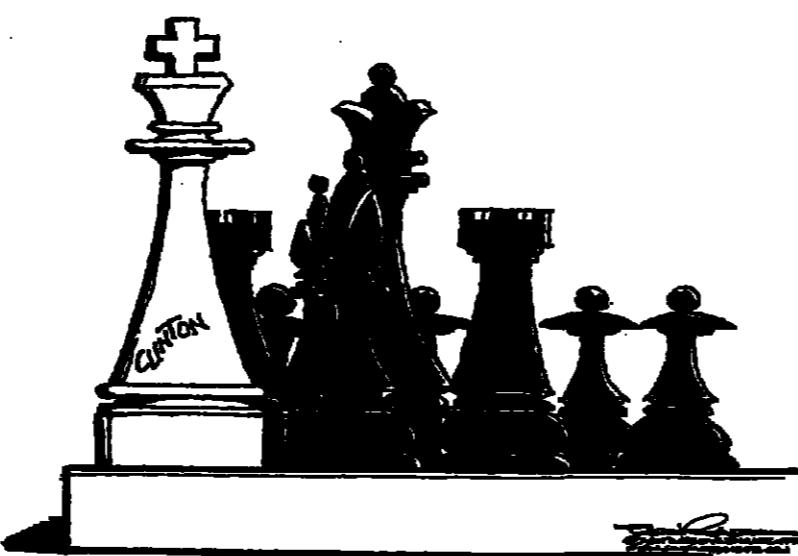
This is not just a reaction to his plight. It is a broader rejection of the attack culture as it has been practiced by both

parties and many individuals. People believe that investigations, by their relentlessness and publicity, aim to convict the accused in the court of public opinion. People see that investigations, once unleashed, often take on a life of their own and become disconnected from common sense and common decency.

Although none of this excuses Mr. Clinton, it tempers public outrage. People sense that the process routinely converts small offenses into large crimes. A four-year investigation led to the indictment of a former agriculture secretary, Mike Espy, for accepting \$35,000 in allegedly illegal gifts. Ironically, Mr. Clinton benefits from a vague sympathy left by some earlier targets of the attack culture.

Americans believe that no one should be above the law. But they also believe that laws should be fairly administered and not strewn with so many technical prohibitions that almost anyone might violate one.

People know that investigations are frequently used selectively for partisan purposes. They are as cynical about the investigators as the investigated, suspecting that people are building reputations and settling scores. And there is a fear that the process might be manipulated to usurp democratic prerogatives. After all, Americans desire to re-elect Mr. Clinton despite ample



evidence that he was a confirmed womanizer and a regular liar.

The prejudice against nullifying the election is strong and, in my view, sensible. Kenneth Starr's low ratings measure popular misgivings. A New York Times poll finds that only 19 percent of the public judges him favorably.

In Mr. Starr's defense, it ought to be noted that his "excesses" — summoning Secret Service agents to testify before a grand jury, for example — flowed from Mr. Clinton's excesses in concealing the truth.

That said, the truth is not so horrifying to most Americans that they want to subject the country to a long, degrading impeachment.

I doubt Mr. Clinton can take much

comfort in this. People will not easily forgive him for putting the country in this predicament. And if the evidence becomes more damning or the scandal drags on, an irritated public might see resignation as the best exit.

But today's ambivalence holds a larger message. It is a plea for a better balance between accountability in government — essential for any democracy — and politicians' instinct to attack each other. There are ways to do this: narrowing the independent counsel law; clarifying other laws; excusing self-restraint. It seems unlikely that a generation of politicians schooled in the methods of partisan loathing will heed the message.

Washington Post.

Call Off This Politically Motivated Travesty

By Charles Levendosky

CASPER, Wyoming — Don't you just love it? All those moralists dumping their chess and wagging their accusatory fingers at President Bill Clinton. They have eagerly read and memorized the varied accounts of Mr. Clinton's affair and throughout it all cracked their tongues disapprovingly while lapping up a daily diet of alleged sexual details.

They can be triflulated and self-righteous at the same time — such is the hypocrisy of America's puritan heritage.

Meanwhile, the media have danced like a gaggle of gleeful puppets in this long charade, playing to the sexual schizophrenia of the American public.

Sex: As a nation, we Americans do not know what to do about it. Some want all references to sex eliminated from books and the Internet; others will buy something they do not need if it is sold in a sexy manner, as any advertising director can verify.

Self-righteous moralists cannot get enough of the nitty-gritty on the president's sex life — so they can feel and act superior. They would deny, however, any tingling sensations that might arise from their prurient interests.

Last week, a homed and subpoenaed Mr. Clinton finally publicly admitted that he had sex — a "not appropriate" relationship, as he has been no such showing.

Was a president's sexual behavior the public's business? Generally, no.

The only time such revelations would be important is if there was a significant showing that the president's ability to lead the country was severely compromised by the relationship. There has been no such showing.

What has hampered the president is Kenneth Starr's politically motivated investigation. Through his actions, the independent counsel may have seriously diminished future presidential prerogatives.

Mr. Starr has taken years and is spending what some estimate will be \$50 million to uncover an illicit relationship between two consensual adults. Was it worth it? Only to those Republicans who have been harboring retribution in their dark hearts anxious to pay back Democrats for bringing down Richard Nixon.

After the air strikes in Afghanistan and Sudan, two Republican senators, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania and Dan Coats of Indiana, cast doubt on the president's real motivation. They intimated that the attacks were to deflect the public's attention from the Lewinsky matter. Paybacks for Mr. Nixon.

If Mr. Starr's \$50 million were split into 50 portions, \$1 million to investigate each state house in America, there would be many uncomfortable go-betweens looking for places to hide.

Perhaps sex is not your Achilles' heel — perhaps it is greed, or cruelty, or alcohol, or temper, or lack of courage. A hound-dog prosecutor like Mr. Starr could make you look like a fool.

Why would anyone be shocked that the president denied a sexual liaison with Ms. Lewinsky? Most men and women when asked about an illicit sexual relationship deny it.

Imagine also that the answer is going to be broadcast to the nation. Wouldn't most people deny? The real question is: Why was it anyone's business?

The Starr investigation was out-

rageously rampant — from an Arkansas land deal to sex in the Oval Office — but politically impossible for a Democratic president with a Republican-controlled Congress to stop.

Mr. Starr conducted a fishing expedition that eventually found evidence of the president's weakness. He has such latitude, money and resources and political motive that anyone he targets can be brought down.

Others comment that Mr. Clinton's presidency will be diminished in the view of history. Have any presidencies been diminished historically because of rambunctious sexual carousing? Not one — from Washington to Jefferson to Kennedy and Johnson. Presidents are historically judged on leadership and the state of the nation when they ended their tenures.

Were any of the two dozen known philandering presidents forced to admit that they had affairs while in office? No.

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The Starr investigation was out-

Next, Clinton vs. Congress?

By David S. Broder

COLIET, Illinois — A Congress controlled by the opposition party is always a tempting target for a beleaguered president. In the 50 years since Harry Truman triumphed at the expense of the "good-for-nothing, do-nothing 80th Congress," his example has never been forgotten.

About two hours before Bill Clinton announced the retaliatory strikes in Afghanistan and Sudan, I was sitting in a restaurant in this old, industrial town outside Chicago with Republican Representative Jerry Weller. Like all his colleagues, he is acutely conscious that a shift of only 11 seats in November could cost them their majority.

Musing on the fallout from the Lewinsky scandal, Mr. Weller said: "I wonder if this will cause the president to take greater risks, to challenge Congress, to use his veto power to force a shutdown of government and divert the voters from his own problems. He might pick a couple popular issues and try to rally support for himself."

In the winter of 1995-96, when his job rating was much lower than now, he forced exactly that kind of governmental crisis. He convinced the public that he was fighting to save Medicare from the new Republican majority on Capitol Hill, and saddled the Republicans with blame for the shutdown. It was a key step in his rehabilitation and eventual re-election.

There is no shortage of issues he could use. Almost every appropriations bill now working its way through Congress contains provisions obnoxious to Mr. Clinton. His own initiatives have been shortchanged or killed.

Measures that commanded strong popular support when he introduced them in January in the State of the Union address — expansion of Medicare, help for school construction and hiring of new teachers, cuts on tobacco, etc. — have been shelved by Congress.

He could easily find a pretext for vetoing the bills that would keep the government running beyond the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1 and demand that Congress stay in Washington, rather than go home to campaign.

The Republican plan to meet this challenge is twofold. The Republican National Committee is already airing ads telling voters that President Clinton will be to blame if the government is shut down. And Republican leaders plan to respond to vetoes of individual appropriations bills by passing a continuing resolution — a catchall measure to keep all federal departments operating at current levels — and daring Mr. Clinton to reject it.

It could become a high-stakes gamble for both sides. Add in the uncertainty over the timing and contents of the report to Congress by the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, and you have the makings of high drama this autumn.

The Washington Post.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On Malaysian Law

In response to "Top Opposition Figure Imprisoned in Malaysia" (Aug. 26):

The imprisonment of Lim Guan Eng, a member of Parliament, is a damning indictment of Malaysia's legal and judicial system.

Even if Mr. Lim was guilty of making some baseless allegations in his attempt to ensure justice for a minor and her family, he should not have been handed such a severe sentence. The court should have taken into account the fundamental principles involved: Mr. Lim's concern for justice; his role as member of Parliament; his right as a citizen to express a position on a matter of public concern.

His imprisonment is not only a setback to democracy.

It is an urgent need to liberalize Malay-

isia's sedition law and other laws that fetter freedom of speech.

It is part of the democratic process that elected representatives should be able to comment on matters of public concern in the discharge of their duties.

The Bar Council considers it time for Parliament to review the laws that hinder this process. This reform is needed if Malaysia is to fulfill its stated goal of achieving greater transparency and accountability in public affairs.

CYRUS V. DAS,
Kuala Lumpur.

The writer is president of the Malaysian Bar.

Afghan Conflict

Regarding "Blame Pakistan for the Continuing Afghan

conflict" (Opinion, Aug. 24) by Amin Saikal:

Ever since the Taliban appeared on the scene, the world has been wondering who gave these religious "students" pocket money to buy artillery, armor and aircraft.

Afghanistan's increasingly worried neighbors have known about Pakistan's role from the beginning. But until the Taliban's recent sweep into the north, they reluctantly put up with Islamabad's stone-walling.

Mr. Saikal's lucid analysis shows how even an impoverished state like Pakistan can harbor territorial ambitions as long as a rich one like Saudi Arabia opens its purse strings and Washington winks from afar.

KEWMAR BOZORGMEHR,
London.

By Alan Truscott

For intermediate players, a computer program that talks back when you are in play or defense has advantages over a silent book. One such program, "Bridge Trix," prepared by Bob Wolff in collaboration with Neil Cohen, will challenge players at many levels. A demonstration can be viewed at www.bridgepix.com.

The first subject is winning and ducking tricks and the diagrammed deal would defeat some experts. North's invitation ruff to four no-trump is aggressive, but the potential for making five club tricks is something else in the club suit. He now cashes two top diamonds, which is something he could have done at the second and third tricks. If a

spade lead would be inconvenient: South would

have to play dummy's queen and hope for five club tricks by taking a normal second finesse of the queen or jack.

But if the diamonds divide normally, with both defenders following twice, South can indulge in a safety play to improve his chances of making four club tricks. He should now finesse the club nine, guaranteeing the slam against any club distribution.

With the actual distribution, the nine wins, East shows out, and the declarer can take another finesse to make his slam. But if the declarer routinely finesse the club queen or jack the second time, the slam would fail. South will have 11 tricks, but cannot make a 12th. No endplay or squeeze will succeed.

Playing diamonds before a bad split is revealed, South must try for five club tricks by taking a normal second finesse of the queen or jack.

making a final commitment in clubs is a "discovery" play, an important technique that is often overlooked.

NORTH
♦ Q 6 5
♦ 7 2
♦ 5 4 3 2
♦ A Q J 9 4

WEST
♦ 10 8
♦ J 10 9 8
♦ 6 10 9
♦ K 10 8 3
♦ 5

EAST
♦ K 9 8 7 2
♦ 7 6 5 4 3
♦ 8 7

SOUTH (D)
♦ A 4 3
♦ K A Q 6
♦ 7 6 2

North and South are vulnerable.

The bidding:

South: West: North: East:

2 N.T.: Pass: 4 N.T.: Pass

6 N.T.: Pass: Pass: Pass

West leads the heart jack.

BRIDGE

have to play dummy's queen and hope for five club tricks by taking a normal second finesse of the queen or jack.

But if the diamonds divide normally, with both defenders following twice, South can indulge in a safety play to improve his chances of making four club tricks.

He should now finesse the club nine, guaranteeing the slam against any club distribution.

With the actual distribution,

the nine wins, East shows out,

INTERNATIONAL

Bin Laden's Murky Financial Web — and a Gift by Kin to Harvard

By Anne E. Kornblut
and Aaron Zitner
The Boston Globe

BOSTON — Long before the bin Laden name was associated with international terror, it stood for wealth, and students at Harvard University needed to look no further than their handbooks to understand why.

As a result of the "generosity of the Binladin family," two graduate fellowships were established at the university in 1992. Both are devoted to Islamic studies, and both are named after the prominent Saudi Arabian family, worth about \$5 billion. The name appears as "Binladin," one of several spellings, in

a Harvard University Web site.

But it was from this dynasty that Osama bin Laden, who is accused of funding the bombing of two U.S. embassies in Africa, arose and inherited about \$250 million before he fled to Sudan. He departed the family construction empire nearly a decade ago, taking with him, U.S. officials believe, the business savvy of his father.

Now, Mr. bin Laden threatens to cast a shadow not only on the Harvard fellowships but also on a variety of connections other members of the bin Laden family have with the United States.

In addition to the Harvard fellowship, one of Mr. bin Laden's brothers is attending Harvard Business School, ac-

cording to a report in the British newspaper *The Independent*. That brother, who shares the same father with Mr. bin Laden but has a different mother, could not be reached for comment Tuesday night.

In a greater irony, the bin Laden family construction company has won a \$150 million contract to replace Khobar Towers, the U.S. military residence in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, that was destroyed by a terrorist bomb in June, 1996, killing 19 people and injuring 160. Some U.S. officials believe Osama bin Laden was involved in that attack.

Bin Laden beneficiaries have begun to mount their defense. A Harvard spokesman, Alex Hupke, differentiated between the family and the alleged terrorist,

saying, "It's clear the Saudi bin Laden money is being put to good use here."

Osama bin Laden was officially banned from Saudi Arabia in 1991. A former CIA analyst, Kenneth Katzman, said the family link is now tenuous at best, but several U.S. specialists say that he is still in contact with some of his brothers. Officials believe his siblings may number as many as 52.

Mr. bin Laden, 41, is accused of masterminding the Aug. 7 bomb attacks on U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, that killed 257 people.

Following those attacks, and later threats by a spokesman for Mr. bin Laden, intelligence officials have announced their intent to strike at the heart of his operation: his fortune.

Some of his financial interests are known: Mr. bin Laden poured \$50 million into the Al-Shama' Islamic Bank in Khartoum, for example. He also established Wadi al-Qaid Company Ltd., a Sudanese import-export company that markets agricultural products, according to the U.S. State Department.

Then there are shakier reports: that Mr. bin Laden has played a major role in providing American manufacturers with gum arabic, a substance used in soft drinks,

candy and other products. Or that he has secreted millions in Swiss bank accounts.

The problem, said Yossef Bodansky, director of the U.S. House of Representatives' Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, is that "there is no bin Laden incorporated."

"That doesn't exist," he said. "There is not something you can go to and say, 'That belongs to him 100 percent.'

"He also knows that everyone will go after him," Mr. Bodansky said, "so he has carefully concealed what he has."

The State Department says it has tracked down at least some of Mr. bin Laden's business dealings, and it credits him in a 1996 report with having "secured a near monopoly over Sudan's major agricultural exports of gum," as well as several other products.

Sudan produces 70 percent to 90 percent of the world's gum arabic, but Sudanese and U.S. companies deny that Mr. bin Laden has any role in the gum arabic trade.

The chairman and general manager of Gum Arabic Co. Ltd., which holds the monopoly on Sudanese production, sent a letter Tuesday to U.S. partners saying that the allegation of a bin Laden role in the company was "completely baseless."

The chairman, Omer Mubarak, and general manager, M. M. Karara, wrote that Mr. bin Laden was not an investor, trading partner, financier or beneficiary of the company's activities "in any form."

Meanwhile, others contend that Mr. bin Laden's wealth has been wildly exaggerated and point to the decision by the Saudi government to freeze his bank account after pulling his citizenship.

Barri Arwan, the editor of the London-based Arabic paper *Al Quds Al Arabi*, said that when he spoke with Mr. bin Laden in 1996, the Saudi exile said he had also invested badly in Sudan, greatly diminishing his wealth.

According to a State Department report, Mr. bin Laden's Al-Hijrah for Construction and Development Ltd. built a major road between the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, and Port Sudan, a contract that would normally bring a handsome return. But Mr. bin Laden claims he was never paid for the 1994 project, the editor said.

Mr. Katzman, the former CIA analyst, described the convoluted financial web as the biggest problem investigators have faced so far. The monetary pursuit, he said, is in its "very early infancy." He added, "They're not even off square one."

CAMPS: Guerrillas in Afghanistan Brush Off Bombing by U.S.

Continued from Page 1

cross-section of Latin America's Marxist revolutionaries in the 1970s.

And just as the United States had some trouble fighting guerrilla wars, its missile attack last Thursday, simultaneously with one on a pharmaceutical factory in the Sudan, demonstrates that high-technology wizardry developed to fight a war against another superpower may not be appropriate for a sophisticated war against terrorism.

Whether or not the missile attack accomplished its goal of damaging Mr. bin Laden's ability to carry out terrorist attacks on American and American institutions, it jarred some guerrilla operations that were aimed at other countries.

Intended or not, Washington eliminated guerrillas preparing to go back to fight in Turkey, Algeria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and India. Earlier graduates have also fought in Bosnia and Chechnya.

The American missiles struck four camps in Afghanistan. Two, near Khost, were used for training Pakistanis and Kashmiris for the war against India in Kashmir. The third, Al Farooq, which was nearby, was used primarily by Arabs from many countries.

The fourth camp, Al Badr, 16 kilometers (10 miles) west, was an Arab camp run by Mr. bin Laden, reports filtering out from Afghanistan are that this camp was badly damaged and that the casualty figure may be high.

One of the worst-hit camps was operated by a fundamentalist Islamic organization in Pakistan called Harakat Mujahidin, or Movement of Holy Warriors. At least 21 people were killed.

The camp had been called Harakat Ansar, until the name was changed after the State Department put that organization on its terrorist list last year.

Harakat Mujahidin leaders, as well as survivors of the attack, have insisted that the camp was only for religious purposes.

The camps are only a few kilometers from the Pakistani border, and people and supplies, including weapons, moved freely across Pakistan to and from the camps for many years.

"We always told the Pakistanis there are dangers in allowing these camps," said a senior, non-American, Western diplomat.

"They always denied they had any connection. Last year the Russians showed them pictures of weapons going from Pakistan to the camps." The Pakistan government dismissed the photos as fakes, the diplomat said.

Efforts to get a comment from the Pakistani government were unsuccessful. Neither the Foreign Ministry nor the Ministry of Information returned phone calls.

A senior diplomat from another major U.S. ally said there was "no doubt" that the groups that had trained in the camps in Afghanistan had received assistance.

Along with improving dikes, critics of the dam-centered approach say, more must be done to protect natural waterways that can soak up water and to set aside basins downstream where overflows can be diverted. But intense population pressures and poverty make this difficult.

Hubei Province, on the middle reaches of the Yangtze, where the damage this year is worst, was once known as the province of 1,000 lakes, many of them linked to the Yangtze system, said Zhou Kuiyi, vice director of the government's Research Center on Flood Disasters. But because of draining projects and siltation, many of the lakes have simply disappeared, he said.

The huge Dongting Lake in Hubei is the most important single lake for retaining excess waters along the Yangtze.

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LIBYA: A Trial in Netherlands Is Accepted

Continued from Page 1

Colonel Gadhafi wanted assurances that questions only about the bomb attack over Lockerbie — and no other Libyan activities — would be asked at the trial, and that his intelligence network, which many accuse of supporting international terrorism, would not be scrutinized.

In announcing the trial proposal Monday, the U.S. secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, had explicitly warned that no compromises would be made and that no time-consuming delays would be accepted.

The Arab League, where the proposal for a Scottish trial in the Netherlands originated, obliquely warned the Libyans against obstructing the compromise on a trial.

"Libya has counted on the support of the United States and Britain to make the offer before a meeting of the Nonaligned Movement in South Africa beginning this weekend, where member nations were expected to declare that they would no longer abide by sanctions against Libya if there were no movement in the case."

According to a new report by the State Environmental Protection Agency, the lake borders, again because of drainage for farms and the inflow of salt, have shrunk drastically. Its capacity has fallen by nearly half since 1949.

Decades ago, a large basin near the Yangtze in Hubei was designated as the major emergency water diversion area. When floods grew too high, dikes there would be intentionally breached, relieving pressure elsewhere. The waters were diverted in the great floods of 1954, when 170,000 people had to be evacuated. Today, 550,000 people live in the diversion zone, said Mr. Zhou, making it nearly impossible to open the floodgates.

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Russians waiting outside a Moscow bank Wednesday to enter, one by one, to take money from their accounts.

IMF: Russia Crisis Forces Fund to Bend Policy on Debt Repayment

Continued from Page 1

happened with IMF blessing since the Latin American debt crisis of the 1980s.

What's more, the fund has shifted away from demanding of the Indonesian government one of its standard austerity measures: a budget surplus. That demand ended last month when the IMF agreed instead to enough extra government spending to run up the deficit to 8 percent to 10 percent of the total budget.

He declined to say what he meant by "soon."

The South African Broadcasting Corporation said it had a tape of possible suspects but would not air it because of the ongoing investigation. Local newspapers said videotapes had been retrieved from security cameras inside Planet Hollywood.

The front of the restaurant was wrapped in rolls of concertina wire Wednesday to keep the curious back. About 30 bunches of flowers had been left there, some of them hanging on the razor wire.

The normally bustling Waterfront tourist area was very subdued. Restaurants that usually turn away anyone without reservations had tables beginning.

"Normally it's busy now, but it's very quiet," said Marilyn Fick, a waitress at Delectable Deluxe Donuts. She said she was across from Planet Hollywood when the bomb went off. "There was a lady screaming 'I can't see! I can't feel my face!'" she said.

"They carried out a lady with her foot off. I was shocked. I just started crying and walked away. They had to give me sugar water at the medic station, I was so upset."

Police said Marcus Dudley, a chef, was a hero, rushing into the smoking building to help remove survivors.

The IMF's shifting stance is not without precedent. Years of stagnant economies in Latin America followed the debt crisis of the early 1980s, when most Latin American nations defaulted on debts owed to foreign banks. After nearly eight years in which the banks tried to force repayment of the entire debt, the Reagan administration and the IMF brokered an agreement that guaranteed repayment, but of a greatly reduced amount.

But the Mexican debt crisis of 1994

met with stiff resistance on the part of the IMF and the Clinton administration to any debt write-offs or concessions in standard IMF practices. The same reaction greeted the Asian crisis.

When South Korean banks, for example, renegotiated their foreign debt late last year, the IMF blessed an agreement that stretched out repayment of short-term debts over several years, but called for repayment of the full dollar amount, with interest.

RUSSIA: Prime Minister in Plea to IMF

Continued from Page 1

"We might be ready by next Monday afternoon," said Mr. Seleznyov, referring to the crisis document. "But we would not want to rush things since we are speaking about a very serious document."

In a television interview Wednesday night, Mr. Seleznyov again appealed for Mr. Yeltsin to resign — a call a spokesman dismissed as "stupid."

Most analysts attributed the heavy stretch-out of the Moscow currency exchange Tuesday to the central bank's continued supply of credits to Russia's troubled banks, and by its decision last week to lower the banks' minimum capital requirements.

This move freed ruble reserves, which the bankers then exchanged for dollars.

With the banking crisis threatening a collapse of the entire financial system, the central bank took its first tough action Wednesday by withdrawing the banking license of Bank AB Imperial, Russia's 13th largest bank, which had reportedly defaulted on loan payments.

An anti-crisis program, announced Aug. 17 by Mr. Chernomyrdin's predecessor, Sergei Kirienko, included a 90-day moratorium on debts owed by commercial banks to foreign leaders.

The government's plan to exchange \$40 billion held in Russian short-term Treasury bills for other longer term securities has also left foreign investors with a bitter taste.

Fitch IBCA, an international rating agency, lowered Russia's long-term currency rates on Wednesday from B minus to CCC.

STORM: Hurricane Hits North Carolina

Continued from Page 1

scale," a North Carolina emergency spokesman, Jeff Winstead, said.

More than 50,000 people in eastern North Carolina and thousands more along the South Carolina coast near Myrtle Beach were without power.

With sirens wailing, police and firefighters tried to encourage any stragglers to leave the resort islands east of Wilmington devastated by the hurricanes Bertha and Fran in 1996.

More than half a million people evacuated and thousands streamed into coastal emergency shelters ahead of Bonnie's wrath. Predictions reports that the hurricane was lurking off North Carolina's southern coast sent officials scrambling to open additional shelters there.

"People just won't evacuate until the wind and the rain start, and then they all come on at the same time," said Cecil Logan, emergency coordinator in Brunswick County, home to Calabash, where 2,000 people were evacuated.

"If markets are going to operate properly," Mr. Boorman said, "and if markets are going to price risk appropriately, then in some circumstances that risk is going to materialize, in nonpayment of

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1998

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How Will Hong Kong Get Out of Its Market?

By Thomas Fuller
International Herald Tribune

KUALA LUMPUR — With Hong Kong well into its second week of what has become a billion-dollar experiment in the government's buying shares in private companies, analysts say the most interesting part is yet to come: how and when will the territory stop without upsetting the stock market?

"The government has basically hit the tar baby," said Marshall Mays, the chief strategist at Nikko Securities Co. "How do you get unstuck? The more you try, the deeper you get in."

Since it announced on Aug. 14 that it would buy shares of large Hong Kong companies in an effort to stabilize the tumbling stock market, the government has accumulated an es-

timated \$2 billion in stock. Now what?

"They're in a really difficult position," said Seema Desai, a regional economist at Schroders International Merchant Bank in Singapore. "If you get out, that could precipitate a further slide."

The intervention, which began nearly two weeks ago, was the first time that Hong Kong — seen as the bastion of free-market capitalism in the region — has bought shares in its own stock market. Critics say the move has artificially inflated prices on the Hong Kong market and raised the risk of investing there, because market players are now wary of further interference.

Hong Kong officials defended the move as necessary in their battle against speculators.

Analysts say it could be months or years before the government can unload its stock purchases. If Hong Kong officials decided to stop intervening soon, the market could follow other markets around the region — and tumble again.

"You wouldn't see it fall by 2 percent a day. It would be much sharper than that," said Ed Kapur, a market strategist at Salomon Brothers Singapore Pte. Ltd. in Singapore.

Indeed, when the government seemed briefly to curb its purchases last Friday, the market's main index fell by 2.8 percent — after soaring by 16 percent in the days immediately following the intervention.

"If they want stability, they will have to be in the market," said Mr. Kapur. "This situation will have to continue until the real economy turns

around, until investors smell that the Hong Kong economy has bottomed out, that corporate profits will begin to recover — until all the bad news is out of the way."

Mr. Kapur said that could be up to 12 months away.

That is not what Hong Kong had in mind. The intervention was designed as a measure to combat the immediate threat of speculators — not a long-term commitment.

The territory's chief executive called the intervention "a defensive effort targeted specifically at this particular action," referring to the attacks of market speculators.

Hong Kong has the means to buy stocks for many months to come. Its foreign currency reserves stand at al-

lmost \$100 billion.

See BUY, Page 15

Diana, Princess of Sales: From Mugs to Margarine

By Stuart Elliott
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — As the first anniversary of her death nears, Diana, Princess of Wales, has become a powerful princess of sales, unexpectedly developing into the equivalent of a strong worldwide brand.

The merchandising of Diana's memory has grown rapidly into a multi-million-dollar business for scores of companies that are busily churning out items at all prices bearing her name, likeness or affectionate sobriquets such as "the people's princess" or "England's rose." Those products, of varying taste levels, are being promoted in advertising campaigns that have run almost continuously since her death last Aug. 31, appearing most frequently in mass media outlets like Sunday newspapers and women's magazines.

"She is the consummate brand, available to everybody," said Nick Shore, partner at a New York consulting company named Nick and Paul The Brand Agency.

"There are a lot of iconic aspects to what she was all about: the name, the hair, the dress, the eyes," he said. "And she has been in our living rooms more than our family members."

The deluge of "Dianabilia," as the goods generated by the phenomenon are described in Britain, includes dolls, coins, stamps, collector plates, books, jewelry, candles, music boxes, video-

tapes, flowers and compact disks. Still more collectibles — exploitative or commemorative, authorized or otherwise — are on the way.

"As popular as Diana was alive, the outpouring since her death has been mind-boggling," said Jay Coleman, president and chief executive at EMCI, a company in Stamford, Connecticut, that specializes in entertainment and celebrity marketing campaigns. "There's a whole industry out there and it wouldn't surprise me if we see an ongoing Diana presence."

By one estimate, sales of products inspired by Diana mania are running at \$200 million annually. That is already equal to the yearly sales of licensed merchandise associated with Marilyn Monroe, another blonde whose sudden demise at age 36 drew international attention.

Diana died a tragic death, somewhat similar to a Marilyn Monroe or a James Dean," said Mark Roessler, chairman and chief executive of CMG Worldwide in Indianapolis, which handles licensing and merchandising rights for more than 200 stars, such as Miss Monroe, Mr. Dean, Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman and Greta Garbo.

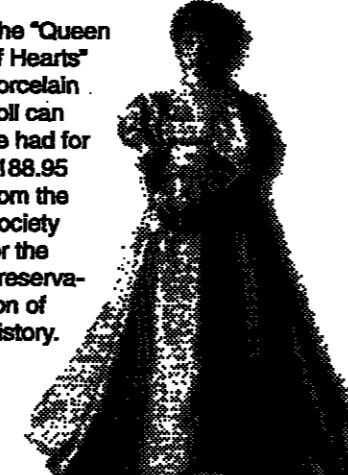
"And the unprecedented media coverage of her death undoubtedly made an impact," he said. "People buy things to remember."

See DIANA, Page 15

Diana for Sale

The image of the late Princess of Wales has become a cottage industry. It appears on, among other things, coins, plates and stamps. Diana dolls are the icons of the cult of Dianamania.

The "Queen of Hearts" porcelain doll can be had for \$188.95 from the Society for the Preservation of History.



The Princess Diana Solid Silver Memorial Coin, available from the Franklin Mint, costs \$55. It has a \$20 face value.



The Franklin Mint's porcelain portrait plate sells for \$29.95.

A set of nine stamps sells for \$9.95 and is legal for postage in the Republic of Togo.

Germans Fear Panic in Russia Could Spread and Threaten Global Economy

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

BERLIN — As Russia's financial crisis continues to spin out of control, there is growing alarm in Germany and other European countries that it could soon have damaging economic consequences for the world's leading industrial democracies.

Leading German economists said that if Russia's problems can be isolated, they could be manageable in the long term.

But they warned that if panic in Moscow triggers further instability in Asia and Eastern Europe, the impact could be devastating for the world economy.

"We are in the throes of a global currency crisis," said Lutz Hoffmann, president of DIW, the top German economic institute.

He predicted that an economic collapse in Russia would force a devaluation in the Chinese yuan, which would cause "the carousel to start turning again in Asia" and ultimately inflict a serious blow to the United States and western Europe.

As Russia's leading trade partner and biggest lender, Germany has been struggling to protect its substantial stakes there by trying to convince investors and the public at large that any melt-

down would only have minor repercussions.

But reaction Wednesday in European markets to the ruble's dwindling fortunes suggests that nervous investors are not heeding that message and see Russia's problems as a harbinger of further monetary turmoil.

Germany's leading commercial bank saw its credit rating slashed Wednesday and shares on the Frankfurt stock exchange plunged more than 3 percent in value, reflecting investor fears that Russia's troubles could prove contagious.

German banks have by far the largest foreign exposure with \$30.5 billion in outstanding loans to Russia, representing about 40 percent of foreign credits.

The looming confidence crisis has not been helped by contradictory messages from the German government.

A few days ago, top cabinet officials were insisting that the West must help Russia at all costs.

"An unstable, collapsing Russia is much more dangerous and would be much more expensive than a Russia which we support on its economic path to a market economy," the economic minister, Günter Rexrodt, said after the de facto devaluation of the ruble last week.

But Wednesday, the German finance minister warned that Russia should not

expect any further bailout by wealthy Western partners in the wake of the \$22.6 billion package assembled last month by the International Monetary Fund.

"Russia must do it by itself," Theo Waigel said. "Lasting stabilization of the financial situation in Russia is only possible if new confidence is created on financial markets and in the Russian public."

The "tough love" approach adopted by Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government represents a dramatic turnaround by Russia's most important economic partner.

For years, Germany opened its coffers to provide generous amounts of aid and state-guaranteed credits to Russia, largely out of gratitude for the bold political decision by Mikhail Gorbachev, the last Soviet president, not to thwart German reunification.

But with Mr. Kohl facing a difficult re-election campaign before national elections next month, his governing center-right coalition has balked at shelling out more money to rescue Russia. Such a gesture is now seen as a grave political liability in Germany, where budgets are tight and joblessness is running close to record highs.

The opposition Social Democrats have sought to turn Mr. Kohl's vaunted friendship with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia to his disadvantage with voters by charging that their much-publicized chats in the sauna have accomplished little to ward off a potential economic nightmare for both nations.

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Deutsche Bank Slips From Top of Ratings

S&P Acts as Investment Banking Woes Fester

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — Deutsche Bank AG slipped from the pinnacle of the world's financial houses Wednesday when Standard & Poor's Corp. downgraded it.

Until S&P reduced its rating to double-A-plus from the coveted triple-A, Deutsche Bank, the leading bank in Germany, was one of only two private commercial banks in the world holding a plunge in the bank's stock, which closed at 122.60 DM (\$68.09), down 6 DM.

Investors cited the bank's exposure to financial upheavals in Asia and Russia for the sell-off, factors that pushed stock indexes around the world into negative territory Wednesday.

A spokesman for Deutsche Bank said the downgrade was not a surprise after S&P served notice that it was considering such action when it put Deutsche Bank on its "watch list" in January.

The downgrade will ratchet up pressure on Deutsche Bank to come up with a credible and possibly radical solution to its investment banking problems. S&P faulted Deutsche Bank's latest restructuring efforts, which are meant to integrate that business into the main commercial banking operations.

The German bank now compares unfavorably with international peers, the agency said.

Even with the markdown on Wednesday, though, Deutsche Bank enjoys higher S&P ratings than its largest German rivals. Dresdner Bank AG has a double-A rating and Commerzbank AG has a double-A-minus rating. Moody's Investors Service Inc., another ratings agency, downgraded Deutsche Bank in December 1996.

The downgrade is more painful to the prestige of a bank that once towered over the rest of Europe than it is to its balance sheet, analysts said. The merger of Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corp. this year displaced Deutsche Bank as the biggest bank in Europe.

It is a prestige matter to have a triple-A rating and then to lose it," said Georg Kanders, an analyst at Westdeutsche Landesbank in Duesseldorf.

S&P acted on what many see as Deutsche Bank's biggest stumbling block: its inability to break into the top leagues of global investment banks despite years of staggering investments, acquisitions and hires.

This business has been a drag on the parent-company bank, the agency said in a toughly worded critique. Fierce competition "poses significant challenges for the bank to achieve its ambitious goals," the agency said.

"Deutsche Bank's investment bank strategy has lacked credibility for over a

gas, oil and other commodities from Russia and Asia," said Axel Siedenburg, an economist for Deutsche Bank.

As the ruble continued to fall in value, dropping more than 40 percent against the Deutsche mark, German investors joined the massive exodus from Russia.

Even though the shares of German banks have been hit hard, their interests remain largely protected because Bonn has guaranteed most of their credits to Russia and Asian countries.

But if those nations default on their loans, the impact on the German Treasury could be substantial.

Besides the hefty \$30 billion in outstanding loans to Russia, German banks are still seeking repayment of more than \$500 billion in shakily credits to Asia.

"Until now, Western countries have been compensated by lower prices in

the market," said Siedenburg. "But now, we all could be facing a nasty downturn. With almost every investor running scared, the stability of the global financial system may be at stake."

■ Russia Losses Weigh on CSFB

Credit Suisse Group said its investment bank had lost \$254 million in the past two months because of global market difficulties, mainly in Russia, where the value of investments has plunged, Bloomberg News reported from Zurich.

Credit Suisse First Boston unit's net profit for the first eight months of 1998 declined to \$500 million as of Tuesday from \$754 million in the first half of 1997.

"The worst of the market effects from Russia's financial crisis is probably past because Russian investments have been essentially 'marked down to zero,'" he told CNBC.

He said the U.S. stock market was the most attractive in the world and he saw "compelling" evidence that U.S. stocks have hit a bottom. With turmoil in other markets around the world, money will pour into U.S. assets, he said.

The Federal Reserve Board is more likely to cut its target for overnight lending rates than to raise it, he said.

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CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Aug. 26 Libid-Liber Rates

Aug. 26

Cross Rates		U.S. Dollars		Swiss		French		ECU	
Currency	Per \$	Per 5	U.S. Dollars	Swiss	French	Swiss	French	Yen	ECU

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Lower Fuel Prices Help Lift Profit at Lufthansa

Airline's Cost-Cutting Plan Yields Results

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
FRANKFURT — Lower aviation fuel prices and a rigorous program of cost-cutting combined to bolster group net profit at Lufthansa AG in the first half, the airline said yesterday.

Lufthansa's profit after tax and one-time gains rose to 924 million Deutsche marks (\$514.1) in the six months ended June 30, much higher than analysts' expectations, from 1.27 million DM in the year-earlier period. The results, posted late Tuesday, also showed sales grew 1.6 percent, to 10.63 billion DM.

"This year's figure includes the 377 million DM that Lufthansa received from selling its 18 percent stake in Mapag-Lloyd AG, a travel and shipping company, to Preussag AG in the first quarter. In 1997, Lufthansa had a full-year profit of 835 million DM."

"The figures were clearly better than expected," said Uwe Weineich, BHF Bank's Lufthansa analyst. "This is one of the world's most profitable airlines, and the figures were simply excellent."

Lufthansa's shares fell 2.30 DM, to close at 45 DM.

"A stable price climate, the ongoing downward trend in prices on the crude oil markets and the group-wide cost-reduction programs meant that expenditure in the first half of this year grew distinctly more slowly than both turnover and productivity," Lufthansa said.

Looking ahead, the airline said it expected a clear rise in full-year earnings, while sales were expected to grow in line with first-half results.

The group said the positive earnings development continued in July, with passenger business growing beyond expectations and above the previous year's levels.

Lufthansa's group profit from ordinary activities before tax more than doubled, to 928 million DM from 397 million DM.

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Passenger income rose by 7.6 percent, to 7.4 billion DM, while freight income rose 2.7 percent, to 1.8 billion DM. (Reuters, Bloomberg)



GAME BOY — Sitting in a futuristic reclining seat, a youthful visitor enjoys a 3-D computer game Thursday at the CeBIT Home Computer fair that opened in Hannover, Germany.

France Prepares to Launch An Inflation-Linked Bond

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
PARIS — France said Wednesday that it would start to sell an inflation-linked bond on Sept. 15, a move designed to help it compete with funds on world markets.

The wider the range of securities France is able to offer, the better it can compete for funds, a task that will get harder in January once the bulk of European debt is issued in euros, cutting the ties that currently bind investors to their domestic markets.

France will sell a minimum of 20 billion francs (\$3.31 billion) next month of a bond maturing July 25, 2009.

The bond will be sold through a syndication process via Banque Nationale de Paris, Barclays Capital and Societe Generale.

Other primary dealers will be closely associated with the sale, the

U.K.'s Yardley in Bankruptcy

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Yardley Group, the venerable British perfume maker, went bankrupt on Wednesday after failing to adapt to the highly competitive and changing fashion market.

Yardley, which was founded in 1770 and has 300 employees, will be run by receivers from the accounting firm KPMG while a buyer is sought.

Although Yardley products were highly fashionable in the 1960s, the company, reputed to make the favorite perfume of the Queen Mother, is now dogged with an old-fashioned image.

Last year, the Yardley group switched its advertising model from actress Helena Bonham Carter, who has traditional English rose looks, to sculpted international supermodel Linda Evangelista.

In addition to perfume, Yardley

makes talcum powders and body lotions scented with lavender, rose and spring flower. It also makes brightly colored lipsticks and nail vanishes aimed at the younger generations.

KPMG said the company had suffered from a heavy debt burden since a change of ownership in the early 1990s and added that the company had identified a number of possible purchasers.

The company was sold by its former owner, SmithKline Beecham PLC, to Old Bond Street Ltd. for £110 million (\$180.3 million) in 1990.

"In recent years, Yardley has been unable to fully develop its brands due to cash constraints," said the receiver, Tony Thompson. "This receivership offers the opportunity for the right buyer to acquire them and unleash their potential. We expect a high level of interest." (AFP, Reuters)

Germany Bonds Fall

Prices for German bonds fell Wednesday as yields near record lows drove some investors away, Bloomberg News reported.

The decline was exacerbated by the approaching expiration of September futures contracts on Bunds.

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Other primary dealers will be closely associated with the sale, the

government said.

The inflation-linked bond will hold a fixed-rate coupon. Interest payments move in line with the principal value, which is indexed with the inflation index.

The government has said the bond's annual interest payments will be linked to the French consumer price index minus tobacco prices, up 0.7 percent in July.

In case of deflation or falling consumer prices, the coupon and principal value will decline.

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Executive Charged in Hong Kong Investigation

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HONG KONG — A former chairman of Allied Group Ltd., one of the largest property and consulting companies in Hong Kong, was charged Wednesday with nine fraud-related offenses after his arrest at the border with mainland China in connection with the territory's biggest corporate investigation.

The official, Lee Ming-tee, 58, was arrested Tuesday, five years after a special investigator's report contended that he used a network of offshore firms to evade Hong Kong disclosure laws and avoid paying for stock purchases.

Mr. Lee, a Malaysian-born Australian, was charged with four counts of conspiracy to defraud and five other counts in a deception case, which the prosecution said involved a total of 700 million Hong Kong dollars (\$90.4 million).

The charges follow the most expensive inquiry in the history of the Hong Kong stock market, the Commercial Crime Bureau said, costing 46 million Hong Kong dollars in legal fees.

Allied Group came under scrutiny in 1992 when a special investigator was appointed to look into its affairs. A 600-page report from the investigator contended that Mr. Lee and his nephew, Lee Seng-Chay, used a string of offshore companies to buy stock in Allied between January 1990 and May 1992 without meeting some public disclosure laws or paying for some transactions.

Names appearing in the investigator's report included Chin Pui-chung, a jailed Hong Kong legislator, and the Riady family of Indonesia, which controls the Lippo Group.

Mr. Lee was publicly reprimanded by the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in 1996.

Ronald Tse, a former finance director of Allied who has been in police custody in Australia, has been deported and faces 22 charges in Hong Kong, including allegations that he acted as a co-conspirator with Mr. Lee.

The former chief executive of Allied, Chan Chun-on, is also named in the charges, but has not been arrested. (APB, Bloomberg)



FLYING UNITED — Richard LaVoy, president of American Airlines' Allied Pilot Association, left, shaking hands with Mike Oldham, chairman of the British Air Line Association, as pilots from 11 airlines met in Tokyo on Wednesday to sign a pact protecting pilots' working conditions.

Legislators Assail LTCB Rescue

Agence France-Presse

TOKYO — Leading political opposition forces in Japan's lower house of Parliament threatened Wednesday to derail the government's rescue plans for the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan Ltd.

Three opposition groups are to submit a bill as early as next week to tackle Japan's crippling loan crisis and their bill challenges the government's proposals, officials said.

Lawmakers registered their criticism of the government's plans for LTCB by boycotting a key committee, which was due Wednesday to begin debate on the bank.

The debate was delayed until Thursday.

LTCB, suffering from huge bad loans, has been ravaged on the stock market in recent months and forced into a rescue merger, an effective takeover, by Sumitomo Trust & Banking Co.

LTCB's share price tumbled 5 yen, or 8.8 percent, on the Tokyo stock market, to close at 52 yen. Sumitomo Trust slid 29 yen, or 7.4 percent, to 364 yen.

The government wants to inject a

South Korean GDP Falls 5%

Agence France-Presse

SEOUL — South Korea's economy shrank an estimated 5 percent in the first half of 1998, its biggest drop since the Korean war, as living standards plunged to an eight-year low, officials said Wednesday.

The country is likely to suffer another sharp contraction in the second half as the economic crisis takes a growing toll on what was once the world's 11th biggest economy, the central bank chief, Chon Chol Whan, warned.

First-half gross domestic product is estimated to have contracted by 5 percent from a year earlier, he told a meeting of businessmen here. The decline was the deepest since data compilation began after the Korean war ended in 1953. The largest previous drop was 3 percent in the second half of 1980.

Second-quarter contraction was "far bigger" than the 3.9 percent slump of the first quarter, Mr. Chon said. The sagging economy is expected to wither again in the second half amid a freeze in investment and consumption as well as sluggish exports, he said.

The Bank of Korea governor added that growth prospects would come under additional pressure from growing unemployment.

Telstra Net Surges 86% As Firm Plans 2,000 Job Cuts

Agence France-Presse

SYDNEY — Telstra Corp. posted the largest annual net profit in Australian corporate history Wednesday. The telecommunications giant then announced it would cut 2,000 jobs next year.

Net profit surged 85.8 percent from a year earlier to 3.04 billion Australian dollars (\$1.75 billion) in the 12 months to June, with revenue climbing 8.9 percent to 16.8 billion dollars.

Among the best-performing divisions were mobile telephony and its associated products, and Data and Internet services.

Frank Blount, the chief executive, said that flat-to-declining revenue from traditional telephony would continue to be offset by growth in nontraditional services.

But he warned that if events in Asia slow economic growth in Australia, profit could be affected. He also cited future risk from regulators and intensified competition.

Mr. Blount said more than 70 percent of Telstra's costs were labor-related and 2,000 jobs will be cut.

The company originally planned to squeeze its work force by 25,500 over four years, but now "it will be 27,500 over five years."

Unions assailed the move, saying profit came at the expense of labor.

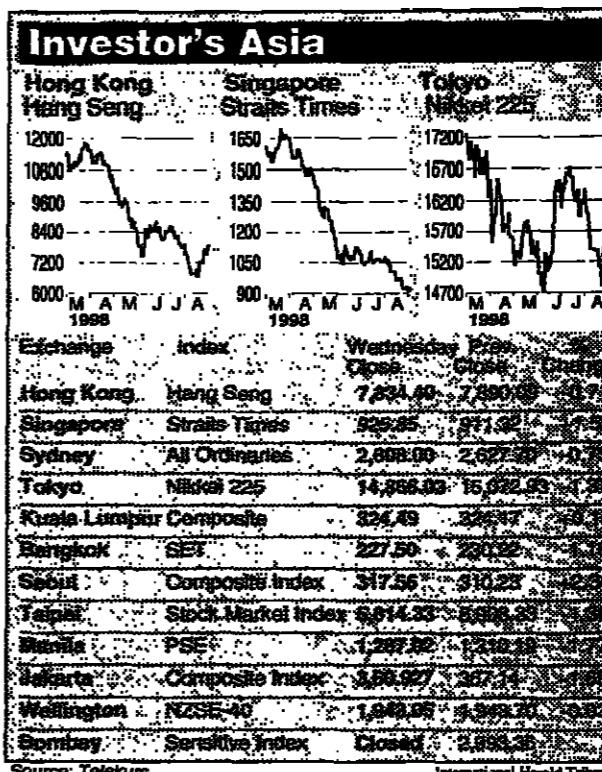
"Staff have not had a wage increase for over 17 months because of Telstra's intransigence, yet Telstra is obviously massively profitable," the Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union said.

The result, which exceeded the prospectus forecast by 7.1 percent, was in line with analysts' forecasts. The bottom line was bolstered by the absence of abnormal losses.

The company was one-third privatized and triumphantly floated on the Australian Stock Exchange late last year. The majority owner is still the Commonwealth of Australia, although plans to float the remaining shares have failed.

Shares fell 14 cents to 4.47 dollars in a market weakened by global uncertainty.

The company confirmed that it is searching for a replacement for Mr. Blount when his contract runs out later this year.



Source: Telstra

International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

• Penas Corp., a Malaysian property developer and construction company, said it obtained a court order to hold its creditors at bay for six months while it and its 26 units found ways to repay debt. The company did not disclose the size of the debt.

• Wells AG, the world's second-largest maker of hair-care products, said it had bought the 50 percent stake of its long-standing partner Dong-A Pharmaceutical Co. in their South Korean cosmetics joint venture, Myungmy Cosmetics.

• Nissan Diesel Motor Co. said it might add extra holidays for some of its employees in an effort to reduce inventories.

• Netscape Communications Inc. and Singapore Network Services signed a partnership agreement to provide electronic-commerce software to businesses in Singapore and the region.

• Asian business leaders expect the Chinese currency to be devalued within six months, according to a poll. Eighty-four percent of respondents said they anticipated a devaluation of the yuan within the next two years, with 51 percent expecting China to devalue within six months.

• Hong Kong mortgage lending fell again in July, reflecting gloom in the local property market, but the pace of decline slowed from the previous month, official data showed. New mortgage loans fell 0.7 percent in July, to 9.38 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$1.21 billion), compared with a 1.5 percent drop in June, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority said.

• Amcor Ltd., an Australian paper and packaging group, said it was targeting cost reductions of 80 million Australian dollars (\$4.1 million) in the year ending June 30.

• India will open its highly protected insurance sector to foreign insurers, but only as minority partners in joint ventures with domestic firms, said B.K. Chatterjee, the Finance Ministry's special secretary for insurance.

• Sichuan Changhong Electrical Appliances Co.'s net profit plunged 32 percent, to 634 million yuan (\$76.7 million), in the half ended in June. The Chinese company attributed the decline in profitability to the impact of the Asian financial turmoil.

Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters

DIANA: A Year After Her Death, Cash Registers Ring Out for Her

Continued from Page 11

The estimate of Diana brand sales does not include the revenue derived by television networks, magazines and newspapers that are devoting special programs, issues and sections to the accident that killed her and two others in Paris.

Among those Diana-holic media are Good Housekeeping, MSNBC, NBC, the New York Post, People and TV Guide.

The demand for the Diana brand is also evinced in efforts to cross-merchandise her with other purist commercial properties, as if she were a McDonald's or a Pepsi-Cola being linked with a Walt Disney or "Star Wars." For instance, Ty Inc. brought out a Beanie Baby devoted to Diana, a purple bear with a white rose over its heart. And a necklace by Asprey London inspired by the Heart of the Ocean, the gem worn by Kate Winslet in the film "Titanic," was auctioned at a benefit for the Diana memorial fund.

The interest in Diana as a brand is not completely unexpected because in life, she also moved the goods. First there were items issued for her wedding to Prince Charles, which were subsequently followed by trinkets like tea towels, magnets and coffee mugs. Most of that merchandise, however, was sold on a small scale in souvenir shops, the post-death products are being distributed far more broadly.

The reasons for the prominence of the Diana brand extend beyond the abrupt and well-publicized nature of her death. Otherwise, consumers would have been buying Princess Grace products for the last 16 years.

"People identified with Diana," said Jeffrey Lotman, chief executive of Global Icons, a Los Angeles company that handles licensing and merchandising for such celebrities as James Cagney, Sammy Davis Jr. and W.C. Fields. "She was the first member of royalty that you felt you could touch."

Like other brands, Diana has not been immune from business problems. The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, which was formed after her death, sued the Franklin Mint in May, charging that the company was not authorized to use her image on dolls, plates and other products.

The mint, a unit of Roll International, is fighting the suit and proclaiming in ads that it had "pledged a minimum of \$4 million worldwide to charity in tribute to the beloved Princess Diana."

Some decisions by administrators of the fund, which has raised \$132.8 million from fees from sales of authorized Diana merchandise, have been second-guessed as being in questionable taste.

Critics in Britain decried lottery tickets and margarine tubs bearing Diana's name even though proceeds from their sale were donated to the fund.

Prime Minister Tony Blair com-

plained in February about "inappropriate and tacky" commercial exploitation of Diana.

Will such difficulties, as well as the inevitable fading of memories, take a toll on the Diana brand? The experts seem to think not.

"I expect there will be a market for a long time," said Marty Brochstein, executive editor of The Licensing Letter, a newsletter published by EPM Communications in New York.

"For those killed at an early age, their images are frozen in time," he added, invoking John F. Kennedy, who "hasn't gotten older in people's minds; he is still the youthful, vital president."

Paula Scher, a partner at Pentagram, a design company in New York, said: "Diana's longevity as a brand depends on how effectively she is managed. If the management of the brand is good, Diana can go on forever."

BUY: Will Hong Kong End Intervention?

Continued from Page 11

most \$100 billion, although some of that money is tied up in long-term agreements with central banks around the world.

Ultimately, analysts say, it is a question of how much Hong Kong is willing to step up its stock market.

The government has focused on trapping speculators who bet against stocks in future contracts that come due at the end of this week. With share prices now higher than some of the speculators had expected, they may have to take a loss.

Rather than be deterred, however, many of these speculators have simply closed out their August contracts and opened new ones for September — setting the scene for a protracted battle.

On the sidelines of this battle, Hong Kong's market regulators must deal with the prickly ethical issue of holding stakes in companies that they are

charged with overseeing.

Their job is to reprimand companies that break securities laws, for instance. But as shareholders, they are presumably interested in selling their stocks higher than they bought them.

The government must also decide which companies to protect and which to let be exposed to free market forces — decisions that could be important in determining which companies emerge from the current trouble healthy and which don't.

In the end, the government's total stake in companies listed on the stock market is not expected to be high. Analysts say the government is unlikely to own more than 15 percent of Hong Kong's biggest companies.

And given the territory's massive reserves, the government can take its time in unloading the shares. "They can wait longer than the market can," Mr. Mays said.

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Wednesday's 4 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
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The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
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NYSE

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close
(Continued)

Herald Tribune

SPORTS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1998

WORLD ROUNDUP

U.S. Open Draw Pits Sampras vs. Agassi

TEENNIS Pete Sampras was drawn Wednesday to face André Agassi in the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open, and the road to a fifth Open title could get tougher from there for the world's No. 1 player.

Sampras starts play with a relatively easy foe, Marc Goettzler of Germany, in his bid for a record-tying 12th Grand Slam tournament singles crown when the Open begins its two-week run on Monday.

But to reach the final, Sampras would have to get past the 15th-seeded Alberto Berasategui of Spain in the fourth round, No. 8 Agassi, and the defending champion, Patrick Rafter of Australia. He then could face No. 2 Marcelo Rios of Chile for the title.

Also with Sampras in the top half of the draw are the hard-serving Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, who is seeded 14th, Greg Rusedski of Britain, last year's runner-up, along with No. 9 Karol Kucera of the Czech Republic and No. 12 Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden.

In the women's draw, the top-seeded Martina Hingis will begin the defense of her title against a qualifier, while No. 2 Lindsay Davenport will play Romania's Catalina Cristea in an opening-round match. (AP)

Cheaper Tickets in Sydney

OLYMPICS Sydney Olympic organizers have increased the prices of prime seats but have made more cheaper seats available for the 2000 Games.

Organizers announced the ticket prices for all sports Wednesday and they range from \$6 to \$800.

While the top ticket price is higher than it was four years ago in Atlanta, there are also significantly less expensive tickets available for the Sydney games. The Sydney Organizing Committee said 75 percent of the 9.6 million tickets would be made available to Australians, 70 percent costing less than \$34.80 and 80 percent priced at less than \$58.

Five million tickets will be put on sale through a mail-order offer set to start in mid-1999. The balance will be divided between children and disadvantaged groups, media and international fans, athletes and officials. (AP)

49ers Suspend Brown

FOOTBALL The offensive tackle Jamie Brown skipped a game, apologized, paid a fine and was welcomed back to the fold. When he showed up late to another game, the San Francisco 49ers weren't so forgiving.

Brown, who cost the 49ers' their 1999 second-round draft pick in an April trade with Denver, was suspended for three weeks for conduct detrimental to the team.

The 49ers imposed the suspension without pay because Brown showed up late for Sunday's exhibition game against Miami. (AP)

McGwire Drug Affair A Bum Rap for Him

Slugger Is Not Cheating With His Steroids

By Dan Shaughnessy
The Boston Globe

BOSTON — No wonder ballplayers loathe the media. Mark McGwire is stalking one of baseball's most cherished records — until now the feel-good story of the baseball summer — and suddenly he's engaged in a

VANTAGE POINT

tabloid-driven controversy that's painting him as a cheater and a bad role model.

It's unfair.

If you just dropped in from a two-week trip to Guam, here's the background: An Associated Press reporter noticed a jar of anadrostenedione in McGwire's locker last week. He asked the slugger about the stuff, did some homework and wrote about it.

Anadrostenedione, known in baseball clubs as "andro," is an all-natural, over-the-counter steroid (not of the dangerous anabolic steroid family) that is used to help an athlete train harder and recover faster. It is banned by the National Football League, the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the International Olympic Committee, but allowed by the National Hockey League, National Basketball Association and Major League Baseball.

McGwire's been a good citizen, never one to disgrace the uniform. Most recently he's dedicated his charity efforts to awareness and funding for abused children. And now he's got to read that he's a bad example to young athletes? Please.

Perhaps andro will be proven unsafe. That is an issue for the Food and Drug Administration and for Major League Baseball and its Players Association. In the meantime, McGwire should be left alone on this issue.

The story of McGwire's historic home run chase is being tarnished because folks are hearing bits of stories and reading wild headlines and concluding that Big Mac is a pharmaceutical creation.

McGwire is not some 98-pound weakling who went on the juice and came back as Rambos. He is a huge, muscular man, who hit 49 home runs in his first big league season 12 years ago.

In Tuesday's Boston Globe, a doctor said that andro is part of McGwire's success. This makes it sound as if the substance is adding 40 feet (12 meters) to McGwire's long fly balls. This is

ridiculous. Andro might help McGwire stay healthy and aid his recovery time from injuries, but the same could be said about aspirin or any other pain reliever.

If a slugger eats Wheaties cereal (sold over the counter, not banned by MLB) wouldn't it be true that Wheaties is part of his success? What about steak? Is eating prime rib part of McGwire's success?

In McGwire's case, it is misleading to write that he's using a "performance-enhancing drug." He's a baseball player, not an Olympic sprinter. There's nothing sold at drugstores that would help any of us hit a home run in the big leagues (unless the store has a book on hitting written by Ted Williams). Facing Randy Johnson and hitting a ball over the fence requires bravery, timing, hand-eye coordination, reflexes, leverage and strength. Most of all, it requires practice and work at it.

Meanwhile, how many other baseball players are taking the same stuff? McGwire probably doesn't go more than a couple of days without hitting against a pitcher who uses andro. While we're at it, what about creatine, another dietary supplement sold over the counter, also used by McGwire? What about MET-K? (endorsed on radio and in print by Mo Vaughn of the Boston Red Sox?)

McGwire's been a good citizen, never one to disgrace the uniform. Most recently he's dedicated his charity efforts to awareness and funding for abused children. And now he's got to read that he's a bad example to young athletes? Please.

Perhaps andro will be proven unsafe. That is an issue for the Food and Drug Administration and for Major League Baseball and its Players Association. In the meantime, McGwire should be left alone on this issue.

We've all heard the stories about Roger Maris's hair falling out from stress when he chased Babe Ruth's record in the summer of 1961. Turns out Roger was lucky. He didn't play in 1998, when you can do something legal and be painted as a cheater.

And what about the Babe? The Bambino hit 60 homers in 1927, the seventh year of Prohibition. Think he might have had a little bathtub gin coursing through his veins at any point during the '27 season?

Hope not. After all, it would have been a bad message for youngsters.

Chasing the Record

Home run tally for two contenders to break the season record of 61 homers set in 1961 by Roger Maris (right).

MARK McGWIRE

53 Latest: 0-for-4 with a walk vs. Martins

SAMMY SOSA

52 Latest: solo homer in 3d inning vs. the Reds

Maris through 132 games: 51



Maris through 132 games: 51



Cal Ripken, the Orioles' third baseman, missing a ball hit by Magglio Ordonez of the White Sox, giving Ordonez a double and two RBIs.

Royals Yield To Clemens' 18 Strikeouts

The Associated Press

Roger Clemens struck out 18 and won his 11th straight decision as he pitched the Toronto Blue Jays to a 3-0 victory over the Kansas City Royals.

Clemens, who has struck out 20 in a nine-inning game twice and shares the record with the Chicago Cubs rookie Kerry Wood, had 14 strikeouts in the

AL ROUNDUP

first seven innings on Tuesday night in Toronto.

It was the 89th double-digit strikeout game of Clemens' career. He allowed three hits and walked none while improving his record to 16-6.

The Blue Jays took a 1-0 lead in the first when Kansas City's Chris Haney (5-6) walked Jose Cruz Jr. with the bases loaded. Craig Grebeck hit a two-run single in the seventh to make it 3-0.

And Sox 2, Athletics 2 In Boston, Darren Lewis hit a tie-breaking home run leading off the seventh inning and Nomar Garciaparra went 4-for-5.

Garcia, who went 0-for-5 in his previous game Sunday, singled in his first three at-bats before doubling in the seventh to equal his career-high hit game, accomplished four times during his 1997 AL Rookie of the Year season.

Indians 10, Mariners 4 In Cleveland, Manny Ramirez was 4-for-4 with the Indians' 31st homer and five RBIs as the Indians defeated Seattle.

Ken Griffey Jr., who leads the AL with 44 homers, was 1-for-4 with a single and a walk, failing to homer for the first time in three games.

Ramirez singled, doubled twice and hit a 432-foot homer, missing only a triple in his bid to become the first Cleveland player in 20 years to hit for the cycle.

Twins 4, Devil Rays 1 Frankie Rodriguez, starting because Minnesota traded Mike Morgan earlier in the day, pitched 7 1/3 shutout innings to lead the visiting Twins over Tampa Bay.

Rodriguez (4-2), who had been scheduled for long relief since beating the Yankees last week, allowed five hits, struck out eight and walked two. He was pressed into action after Morgan was sent to the Chicago Cubs for cash and a player to be named.

White Sox 4, Orioles 4 In Chicago, Frank Thomas and Albert Belle homered in the same game for the seventh time this season, and Chicago beat Baltimore to stop a six-game losing streak.

Mike Mussina (12-7) lost for only the second time in 10 starts since the All-Star break as the Orioles dropped nine games behind Boston in the AL wild-card race.

Angels 7, Yankees 6 The Angels handed New York a rare three-game losing streak, relying on Troy Percival, a reliever, to survive a tense ninth inning to beat the host Yankees.

The Yankees had their chance to win this one when they loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth, but Percival lunged to grab Derek Jeter's grounder for the final out.

Pirates 8, Rangers 7 Frank Catalanotto had three doubles and Luis Gonzalez doubled twice as visiting Detroit took a seven-run lead and held on to beat Texas.

Sosa Blasts 52d Homer

Solo Shot Helps Cubs in 9-2 Rout of the Reds

The Associated Press

Sammy Sosa finally made contact against Brett Tomko, hitting a towering shot for his 52d homer on Wednesday as the Chicago Cubs beat the Reds, 9-2, in Cincinnati to end a four-game losing streak.

Kerry Wood (12-6) struck out 16 in eight innings, the second-highest total

NL ROUNDUP

of his rookie season, as he won for the first time since July 31.

Sosa, who had struck out in his four career at-bats against Tomko (11-10), hit a solo homer in the third inning that smacked an advertising panel on the facing of the third deck in left-center field.

The blast drew a standing ovation from a large part of the crowd of 20,315 and moved Sosa to within one of Mark McGwire as they close in on Roger Maris's record of 61.

Sosa has homered in each of the Cubs' last 13 series. His 23rd homer on the road this season matched the club record shared by Hack Wilson (1930), Ernie Banks (1960) and Dave Kingman (1979).

In games played Tuesday:

Giants 7, Marlins 3 As host Colorado overcame Mike Piazza's three-run homer, the victory was the fourth straight for the Giants and pulled the team within a game of New York in the NL wild-card race.

Pirates 8, Diamondbacks 6 In Phoenix, Freddy Garcia hit a three-run homer and Sean Lawrence won in his major league debut as Pittsburgh won its eighth straight. The victory was the 400th for Gene Lamont, the Pirates' manager.

Marlins 4, Cardinals 3 In St. Louis, Mark McGwire remained at 53 homers, going 0-for-4 with a walk. He has 31 games remaining. Twenty of those games are at home, where McGwire has 27 homers this season.

Padres 3, Phillies 3 In Philadelphia, Ken Caminiti homered twice, Mark Sweeney went 4-for-4 and Kevin Brown (17-4) pitched seven innings of five-hit ball to tie Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine for the NL lead in victories.

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Dodgers 4, Expos 3 In Los Angeles, Dave Mlicki (7-6) allowed two runs and seven hits in 6 1/3 innings, and Eric Karros' sacrifice broke a tie in the sixth.

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Padres 3, Phillies

VIDEOS

*The Faces of Apes*By Peter M. Nichols
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Early in "Planet of the Apes," the 1968 science-fiction film that spawned four sequels, two television series and all manner of gimcrackery through the 1970s, a tall, lithe astronaut named Taylor corrects the misimpression of two intellectual chimpanzees who are trying to determine who this supposedly primitive human is and where he fits into the cosmic puzzle.

"I am not the missing link," he informs them. Having crashed-landed a spaceship on an unknown planet he believes to be 320 light-years from Earth, Taylor, portrayed with abrasive strength by Charlton Heston, and a covering band of mutant humans have been rounded up by ferocious gorilla cavalrymen and tossed in a cage as if they were — well, gorillas.

Throughout all five films, the species are at each other's throats. Interestingly, though, this culture clashing had no negative effect on the films' popularity as family entertainment. Critics hold that the science-fiction settings gave the

"Planet" movies latitude to confront dicey social situations in ways that may have turned off audiences of more conventional movies. Whatever the case, *watched end to end* in a new set of videos from Fox, together with an informative documentary, "Behind the Planet of the Apes," the films reflect an extraordinary accommodation of messages burning to be dramatized in the era of Vietnam protest and violent racial unrest, on one hand, and the restraints and sweeteners required for a family movie on the other.

Adapted from a novel by Pierre Boulle and written by Rod Serling and Michael Wilson, who had been blacklisted in 1951 for supposed Communist connections, "Planet of the Apes" was relentlessly promoted from the time it was just a concept by the producer Arthur Jacobs. Hollywood, however, found the idea of costumed apes uncomfortably close to Saturday morning cartoons. Only Richard Zanuck, the head of 20th Century-Fox, was willing to make the film.

"We chose it strictly for its entertainment value," he said recently. "It was something that we'd never seen before." Zanuck oversaw "Planet of the Apes," which was directed by Franklin Schaffner, and its first sequel, "Beneath the Planet of the Apes" (1970), before he moved on from Fox.

With writers like Serling and Wilson, message was inevitable. In "Planet of the Apes," by far the best film of the series, humans are the primitive, speciesless primates; the apes, neatly compartmentalized in their own social classes (gorillas do the fighting, chimpanzees are the intellectuals and orangutans are political leaders) and busily engaged in all the power games humans play, defensively rule the roost. Taylor, a smart, tough, can-do kind of fellow from an order of humans developed eons earlier, electrifies his highly prejudiced captors with his first words: "Take your stinking paws off me, you damned dirty ape."

But always there are deadly matters at hand. A harsh, bitter man, Taylor is a refugee from a human society he suspects has long ago destroyed itself with hate and nuclear warfare. "He's disgusted

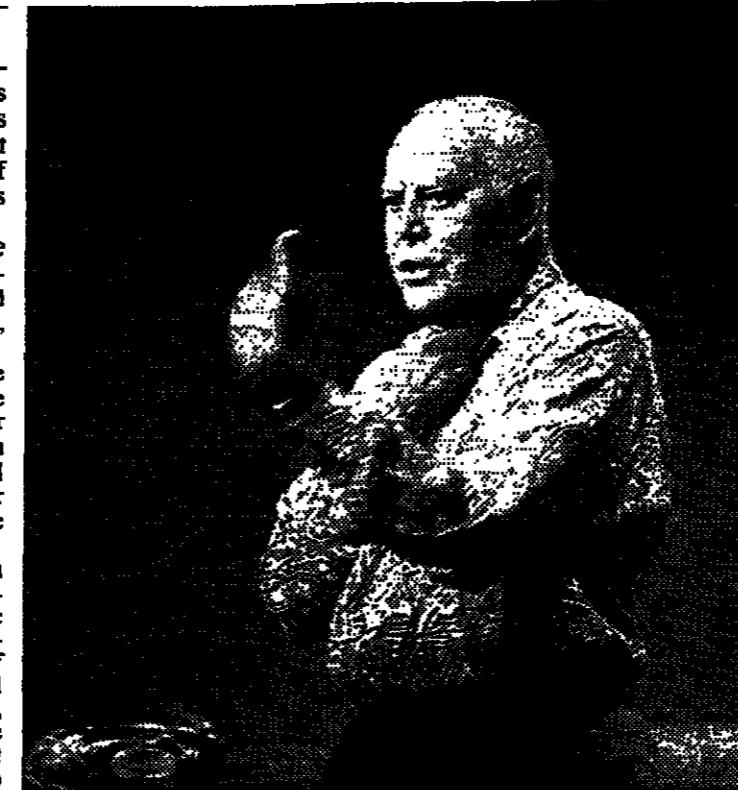
with life and the human race," Heston said.

The sequels grow darker. In "Beneath the Planet of the Apes," the gorilla army ignores antiwar protesters and marches on human mutants living in an underground Forbidden Zone (a blitzed New York City). The humans are praying to their god. "Glory be to the bombs and to the holy fallout as it was in the beginning," intones a priest.

By the second sequel, "Escape From the Planet of the Apes" (1971), humans again have the upper hand. The engaging chimpanzees Cornelius and Zira are refugees on Earth, having escaped nuclear destruction in the spaceship Taylor rode in on in the first film. As the apes were with Taylor, humans are startled to learn that Zira can talk ("I loathe bananas"). Later it is discovered that Zira is pregnant, and she and Cornelius are hunted down and killed by humans who fear the onset of an ape baby boom.

In the third sequel, "Conquest of the Planet of the Apes" (1972), the apes are trained as slaves. After much provocation, Caesar organizes his species and stages a revolution. In keeping with the rising tide of violence in American movies in the early '70s, pitched battles are fought in the streets of Los Angeles.

At test screenings, women gathered up their children and ran for the exits. The studio was alarmed. With family appeal threatened, the violence was toned down in "Battle for the Planet of the Apes" (1973), the final film of the series. At the end, ape and human children mingle in a hopeful sign of harmony. But from first film to last, the "Planet" series seemed to know better.

Planet of the Apes' spawned four sequels.

Quintero, who speaks with the aid of a mechanical voice box.

By Mel Gussow
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The theater is Jose Quintero's lifeline. "It is not a mere profession," he said. "It helps me to clarify the process of living. I know my way around this ground. It's like reading Braille."

He was standing in front of the stage at the Provincetown Playhouse in Greenwich Village and facing a group of theater students, teachers and professionals.

"I am here to open doors," he continued. The doors are to the plays of Eugene O'Neill. For nearly 50 years, Quintero has been the preeminent director of O'Neill and the artist most responsible for re-establishing the reputation of the Nobel Prize-winning playwright.

This month Quintero is back in New York from his home in Sarasota, Florida, for a series of public forums, a feature of the Playwrights' Theater's festival of O'Neill. The festival's inaugural program, early O'Neill one-acts, runs through Sept. 11 at the Provincetown, and over the next seven years the company plans to present all 49 of O'Neill's plays.

Since 1987, when throat cancer took away his normal power of speech, Quintero has spoken with the aid of a Servox, a microphone-like instrument that he holds firmly to his neck. Speaking slowly and precisely, he sounds like a robot in an echo chamber. But listeners can attune themselves to his voice, and when he talks it is with his customary passion, especially when the subject is O'Neill and in this case "Long Day's Journey Into Night."

In this opening session, he spoke for two hours about his long relationship with the work of O'Neill and with the playwright's widow, Carlotta Monterey O'Neill. Relating his own life to "Long Day's Journey," he took his audience step by step through the text. In subsequent forums, actors joined him onstage and acted out scenes from the works being analyzed.

Despite his handicap, the direc-

tor has created a new career as a lecturer and university professor. He teaches directing and acting, dividing his year between the University of Houston and Florida State University.

In his roller-coaster career, Quintero has moved from euphoria to despair and back again. He has battled alcoholism and other private demons while repeatedly revitalizing himself. In the 1950s, with Theodore Mann at Circle in the Square, he reclaimed the careers of Tennessee Williams and O'Neill with his historic revivals of "Summer and Smoke" and "The Iceman Cometh," which made stars of Geraldine Page and Jason Robards.

He moved to Broadway with "Long Day's Journey Into Night" and other plays, but by the early 1970s, after a series of crises, the offers ended and he found himself emotionally and artistically destitute. Then, with his 1973 Broadway revival of "A Moon for the Misbegotten" starring Robards and Colleen Dewhurst, he performed another theatrical miracle.

At the time he said: "Life is a series of deaths and resurrections. I suppose O'Neill taught me that."

Sitting in a borrowed Manhattan apartment, he looked back on his bout with cancer. "I marvel that I'm still here," he said. "As you may imagine, when I was told I was to lose my voice, it was a terrible shock. Although the doctor gave me a very slim chance of survival, I never thought about dying. My main preoccupation was how I was going to earn my living. My whole life had been communication."

Eventually he returned to an ac-

tive theatrical life. He conducted workshops in California. Then Sidney Berger, a former student of his and the director of the School of Theater at the University of Houston, invited him to teach.

"He's a great gift," said Berger, who attends all the director's classes. "One of the students said that going to Jose's classes is like going to church. He gives you not just technique but the spiritual justification for being in the theater."

Occasionally Quintero has returned to directing, most recently in 1996, when he did "The Long Voyage Home" in Provincetown, Massachusetts, but teaching has become almost a full-time occupation.

Reflecting on his past, he said that "A Moon for the Misbegotten" was one play he would never do again because it was impossible for him to see it without thinking of his actors. "It was never regarded as a great play," he said. "Then with Colleen and Jason and myself and Ed Flanders, something happened, and the play came into full bloom. Many times I went to see it and there was a line of luminosity." That production, he said, "will live in my imagination as long as I live — and in the imagination of those who saw it."

He said that one reason for his success with O'Neill is that he never thought of him as a realistic playwright. One model for his version of "Moon" was Van Gogh's "Starry Night."

Sitting on a bench in the square, he said the happiest times were at the beginning of "Circle in the Square," when the excitement of discovery was in the air every day. For all his success on Broadway, he has always considered himself an off-Broadway director. As he recalled those days, his enthusiasm increased and his words took on re-

newed clarity. He began talking about his landmark production of "The Iceman Cometh."

In 1956 he decided to revive the play, which had been a disappointment in its original Broadway run in 1946. Robards had acted for him once, and Quintero wanted him for the small role of Jimmy Tomorrow. The actor, who was driving a taxicab to make a living, came to see him.

"Very timidly," Quintero remembered, "he said he would like a crack at Hickey," the central role and at that point not yet cast.

"Jason looked like the opposite of the description by O'Neill. He was so thin and his eyes were so hamming. He seemed like the last person you would think of casting as Hickey." Nevertheless, Quintero agreed to let him read the role.

For an audience of one, Robards started Hickey's monologue, his long aria of culpability, and Quintero was astonished. "Suddenly my understanding of the depths of the play began to emerge," he said. "He knew more about O'Neill than I did. His added texture, and I could almost feel it in my hands. I could certainly feel it resonating inside me. Not since 'Crime and Punishment' had guilt been so tangible to me. He went on like a man possessed. He began to sweat — rivers of sweat — and I did too. Finally I said, 'That's enough.'"

He explained, "From the moment he began to talk, the part belonged to him. He was Hickey. It was one of those illuminating moments — almost an epiphany. I knew Jason was a good actor. I didn't know he was a great actor." That evening, he telephoned Robards and said, "The part is yours."

The opening, the ecstatic reviews, the acclamation, the careers all followed, but it was that reading that made everything possible. As Quintero said, "There is one afternoon that seemed like any afternoon, this was taking place, and it changed three people's lives" — the actor, the director and the playwright. He added, "Not only three people's lives."

PEOPLE

THE "Titanic" star Leonardo DiCaprio is out of the running as the serial killer in "American Psycho," an adaptation of the Bret Easton Ellis novel. The 23-year-old actor and the independent studio Lions Gate Films couldn't agree on a starting date, the Los Angeles Times and the New York Daily News reported. DiCaprio is scheduled to begin filming "The Beach" in January.

Priscilla Presley was awarded \$75,000 in a defamation lawsuit against a man who claimed they had an affair before she married Elvis Presley. The court ruled that Lavern Carrie Grant, a former army buddy of Presley's, made false statements that were used as the source for the book "Child Bride: The Untold Story of Priscilla Beaulieu Presley" by Suzanne Finstad.

The mention of John Dos Passos brings to mind fiction like "Three Soldiers," "Manhattan Transfer" and the "U.S.A." trilogy. But Dos Passos was

also an artist of another sort — a modernist whose earliest works were drawn in the trenches during World War I, when he drove ambulances in Italy for the Red Cross. Over more than 50 years, Dos Passos created about 600 works. Beginning on Sept. 9, 32 works will be exhibited through Oct. 8 under the title "Colors That Will Not Fade" at the Century Association in New York.

A Salvador Dali fan began an attempt to deliver the world's longest speech to mark the 33rd anniversary of the day the late surrealist painter declared the railroad station in Perpignan, France, the center of the universe. Luis Coley plans to speak nonstop for more than 24 hours, until Thursday at 4:21 P.M., the time Dali arrived in Perpignan in 1965 to make his pronouncement.

A British man will spend half a year entombed in the garden of his local pub as a tribute to his dead mother — herself a former record-holder in the peculiar

sport of being buried alive. Geoff Smith, 37, plans to climb into a box Saturday that will be lowered into a hole near the Railway Inn pub in Mansfield, England. He hopes to stay underground 180 days — long enough to beat the current world record-holder. In 1968, Smith's mother, Emma, spent 101 days buried alive in Skegness, setting a world record that stood until 1981.

Gary Coleman, the former child star of TV's "Diff'rent Strokes" from 1978 to 1983, pleaded not guilty to slugging a woman who sought his autograph at the mall where he works as a security guard. Coleman, 30, did not appear in court for arraignment on a misdemeanor assault charge. The judge set a pretrial hearing for Oct. 20. Tracy Fields, a Los Angeles bus driver, said Coleman signed an autograph and then flew into a rage when she asked him to personalize it for her son on July 30. In a \$1 million lawsuit against Coleman, Fields alleges that she suffers headaches and muscle spasms as a result of the attack.



HONORING NAMIBIA — Fishing and Maritime Minister Abraham Iyambo with Gil, the Lisbon Expo mascot, at celebrations at the Namibia pavilion.

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